

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

APRIL 4, 2002

THOMAS M. GATTLE, JR.
CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

For more information, call (225) 765-2806

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
APRIL 4, 2002

	Page
1. Roll Call	1
2. Approval of Minutes of March 7, 2002	1
3. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March	1
4. Public Comments - 2002-03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules & Regulations*	2*
5. Notice of Intent - Suspension of Collection of Portion of Alligator Tag Fee	10
(Continuation of Public Comments on 2002-03 Hunting Seasons)	16
6. Fishing Week Resolution	18
7. Notice of Intent - Prohibit Gill Nets, Trammel Nets, and Fish Seines in Cypress Lake & Black Bayou Reservoir Located in Bossier Parish, Louisiana	20
8. Oyster Task Force Report on Coastal Restoration and the Oyster Industry	22
9. Set August 2002 Meeting Date	22
10. Public Comments	22
11. Adjournment	22

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, April 4, 2002

Chairman Thomas M. Gattle, Jr. presiding.

Bill Busbice
Terry Denmon
Lee Felterman
Tom Kelly
Wayne Sagrera
Jerry Stone

Secretary James H. Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Chairman Gattle called for a motion for approval of the **March 7, 2002 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Busbice and seconded by Commissioner Sagrera. The motion passed with no opposition.

The **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for March** was given by Major Keith LaCaze. The following numbers of citations were issued during March.

Region I - Minden - 82 citations and 8 warnings.

Region II - Monroe - 63 citations and 4 warnings.

Region III - Alexandria - 47 citations and 13 warnings.

Region IV - Ferriday - 50 citations and 3 warnings.

Region V - Lake Charles - 144 citations and 0 warnings.

Region VI - Opelousas - 157 citations and 12 warnings.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 147 citations and 9 warnings.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 188 citations and 30 warnings.

Region IX - Schriever - 279 citations and 70 warnings.

Oyster Strike Force - 49 citations.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 35 citations.

SWEP - 20 citations and 4 warnings.

Refuge Patrol - 54 citations and 4 warnings.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of March was 1,315. Also there were 157 warning citations issued statewide.

The aviation report for March 2002 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 72.5 hours for enforcement and 10.6 hours for other divisions. Six citations were issued. A total of 718 students were certified in hunter education in March.

Commissioner Busbice asked if citations for hunting turkey over bait were for actually killing a bird or just setting up near the feed? Major LaCaze stated they are set up near the feed. Commissioner Denmon then asked if it was the same charge if a turkey was killed or not? Major LaCaze stated, if a turkey was killed, the charge of taking a turkey by illegal methods could be added to hunting over bait. Then Chairman Gattle told a story of a 12 year old boy hunting and calling turkeys and a bobcat attacking the boy.

Public Comments - 2002-03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules & Regulations began with Mr. Tommy Prickett stating they received lots of comments during the 7 public hearings as well as from letters, phone conversations and personal contacts. He then asked Mr. Jimmy Anthony to recap the comments and present recommended changes as a result of the comments. Mr. Anthony gave an overview from the 7 public hearings. In Minden, 18 people commented on 10 issues with the majority supporting quality deer management in the state. The Ruston meeting had 31 people with 20 comments received mainly on quality deer management, extending the squirrel season through February with dogs and extending the archery season in Area 6 through February. Twenty-one people attended the Alexandria meeting and 6 comments were made with the majority supporting an extension of Area 6 archery through February. In Ferriday, 6 people attended the meeting and 4 comments on the deer season were made. Twenty comments were received at the Lake Charles meeting and the majority

dealt with the new Area 8 created last year. At the Houma meeting, 115 people attended with 59 comments received. The majority of these pertained to the late opening for the archery season in Area 6, 11 were against the late opening but would compromise if the season was extended through February 28. Also, comments on additional dog days in Areas 6 and 7 were received. There were 15 comments received at the Covington meeting with the majority asking that the archery season in Area 6 be extended until February 28. A total of 211 comments to date have been received with 82 being on Area 6 archery season. Thirty-seven support extending the season through February 28, 28 were against opening the season so late. However, most of those people would accept the late opening if the archery season extended through February 28. The second most expressed comment received was for support of a quality deer management in the State. Then quite a bit of support has been received on the proposed ban of hunting guides on WMAs. Then Mr. Anthony went forward with recommended changes to the original Notice of Intent. These included: changing Area 6 from ending on February 2 to extend through February 28. Commissioner Busbice asked if the opening would still be November 1? Mr. Anthony answered yes. Other changes included: extending the gun season from January 17 to January 19 in Area 1 and changing the muzzleloader season to open on January 20 instead of January 18; Area 2 - change the muzzleloader ending date from January 19 to January 17; adding two days of modern firearm either sex hunting to Ascension and Assumption parishes on December 28 and 29; amending the deer limit to 6 instead of having a 2 buck limit; and amending the archery season on Pass-a-Loutre WMA to run from October 1 to January 31 since these deer rut earlier than the rest of Area 6. Mr. Prickett added that Pass-a-Loutre WMA is only archery hunting and the hunters using the area commented October is their best fishing month and they would like to archery hunt and fish at the same time. Commissioner Busbice asked Mr. Anthony if he had the changes in writing. Mr. Anthony stated they just wanted to make the changes public so comments could be received. The rule would not officially be amended until July. Mr. Prickett stated the Notice of Intent will stand as it is, but the Commission has the authority to change the regulation if they are not substantive. He then asked the Commission to notify the public that changes would be made when the final rule is presented at the July meeting. Chairman Gattle asked if a motion was needed to do that and he was told yes. Then he stated the Commission has been inundated with letters and phone calls on the issue of Area 6. The Chairman then asked for a show of hands of those people wanting to make a comment on Area 6 and a majority of the people raised their hands. Chairman Gattle stated they have heard the cry of the bowhunter and if there is a comment different from the Department's proposal, then the Commission would be glad to hear them. Commissioner

Busbice stated the bowhunters he has talked to and received letters from have been very professional and upstanding. Commissioner Felterman also commented he has received a lot of letters and phone calls and with the Department stating there is no biological reason not to change Area 6, he made a motion to extend Area 6 to the end of February for the archery season. Commissioner Sagrera seconded the motion. Chairman Gattle then opened the meeting for comments on this particular issue.

Mr. Kenny Becneaud, a bowhunter in Area 6, stated he was happy with the 28 day extension, but proposed an October 19 through February 19 season. The front end of a season is the season for most archers. Another concern is the cold weather during the month of February may not be good for youth. The opening of October 19 would allow an extra 19 days for fawns and closing on February 19 would allow rabbit hunters an opportunity in the woods alone. If the season could not open on October 19 as he proposed, then Mr. Becneaud recommended opening it for youth only on October 19.

An Unidentified Speaker agreed with the fact that the rut in the Pass-a-Loutre area comes in early to mid-December, and asked that all of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes stay with the October 1 opening date for archery season. If not, then open a new Area 9 and have an October 1 opening date.

Mr. Danny Bourque began thanking the Department for doing the deer survey in northern Iberville Parish. Members of swamp hunting clubs in the southeastern parishes met on April 2 and the consensus of the meeting was the hunters do not like hunting in February due to the early antler shedding. They would like to see the same season dates as last year. He also stated the archery hunters do not have a problem with an October 1 to November 1 bucks only season. Mr. Bourque then asked that they be allowed to meet with Department staff and try to solve the problem with Area 6 deer season.

Ms. Becky Nicosia, owner of a hunting store in Baton Rouge, introduced Mr. Mike Ewing from Galvez, and commented archery hunting comprises 100 percent of Mr. Ewing's business. Taking away the October 1 opening date would be devastating to their businesses. The proposal to give the days back at the end of the season, not only is it too cold, but a lot of enthusiasm is gone and will not have the effect that is seen in October. Ms. Nicosia asked for a bucks only season or to separate Area 6.

Mr. Mike Ewing stated his customers have expressed to him that if there is no biological impact on the dates at this time, they

would like to see the dates remain as they were last year. Adding February would not make these hunters happy at this time.

Ms. Becky Nicosia added that the bowhunters would not have a problem with dictating a buck size that can be taken in October and having something would be better than having nothing at all.

Mr. Jim Hubbs, a hunter from the east side of the River in Area 6, stated there are some archers in his area and they do not have a problem with a bucks only season in October. They are not interested in hunting deer through February due to the antlers falling off the deer during that time. The major ruts are not occurring as late as it does in the northwest portion of Area 6, stated Mr. Hubbs.

Mr. Ray Bordelon, President of Avoyelles Wildlife Federation, began stating his local newspaper did not publish the local public meetings and they did not have a chance to comment on the changes. He then asked if Avoyelles Parish was changed to be all within Area 6? Mr. Prickett stated he would discuss it with him after the meeting. Mr. Bordelon then stated their biggest concern was changing the muzzleloader season to two weeks in December and not allowing for a week in January like it had been last year. As far as the bowhunters he has talked to, he stated they would rather see the bow season earlier in October and not in February.

Mr. Neal Smith, a hunter in the Atchafalaya within Area 6, stated he wanted to comment on the tagging system and a change in the bucks that has been proposed. Chairman Gattle stated the Commission does not have the authority to implement a tagging system, it will have to be changed legislatively. The Department feels the limiting of bucks without a tagging system would be difficult to enforce. He then added it could not be legislatively changed this year since this is a fiscal session only. Mr. Smith noted the Department's surveys indicate 85 percent wants quality deer management. Back in 1969, he implemented a management program on 4,600 acres of land. Ten years ago, he went to a 6 point or better system and they kill 60 bucks and 20 does a year. Mr. Smith then commented he did not want a tagging system for his land since his program was working. In February, most of the deer that are going to be killed have already been killed and the bowhunters will be left with the scraps if the season was extended through February.

Mr. Wayne Thibodaux, involved with two hunting clubs in the Morganza Spillway area, stated that bowhunters have a little bit of an advantage if allowed to hunt beginning October 1. Their major concern is having a chance to kill a buck or a trophy buck and

their chances to do this are a lot better in October rather than in February. The consensus from these two groups would be to have a bucks only season from October 1 to November 1. But if they had to settle for a February date, they would but it would be a far second choice. Only 10 of 362 deer killed year before last were killed with bows on one of the hunting clubs. Of those 10, only 6 were does and Mr. Thibodaux felt it was just a small portion of the deer population being taken with bows.

Mr. Russell Lantier, representing the State's Bowhunters Association, stated they really appreciate the job the Commission does in trying to satisfy everyone's wants and desires. Then he expressed appreciation to the Wildlife Division staff for explaining the proposed shift in Area 6. He stated he has also received quite a number of calls on this issue with respect to the size and scope of Area 6. Mr. Lantier then asked the Commission to ask questions about these issues within Area 6.

Mr. Randy Siebert, an avid bowhunter from Plaquemines Parish, asked that the bow season stay the same. He then stated he was a rabbit hunter and does all of that hunting in February. If the bow season was pushed back to the end of February, this would eliminate most of his rabbit hunting.

Mr. Pete Braquette, an avid bowhunter in southern portion of Area 6, suggested doing a complete study of the whole area and not just the northwest corner. The results may show that the seasons of November 1 may not make sense for the whole area.

Mr. Ron Hymel, a hunter in Area 6 from the St. John Parish area, stated they would like to see the season stay as it was last year with muzzleloader the first and last weeks of gun season.

Mr. Richard Dugas, owner of an archery shop in West Baton Rouge Parish, stated he was concerned with the financial impact that may be experienced in delaying the opening of the archery season. He also thanked the Commission for their efforts.

Commissioner Stone stated he received 25 or 30 letters and only one asked for an October 1 opening for bucks only and all of the rest would accept a February 28 extension. He then asked for a show of hands for those in favor and opposed to a bucks only October 1 season. The comments received today have switched from the letters that were received, stated Commissioner Stone.

An Unidentified Speaker asked who sets the number of days for deer hunting? Chairman Gattle answered the Department sets the

days. Then the speaker asked for a bucks only season in October and extend the season through February so the does could be hunted.

Mr. Joey Rhodes asked, in Plaquemines Parish, to keep the season the same as it was. He added he was not opposed to the rest of Area 6 being bucks only.

Mr. Kenny Becneaud stated the reason no comments on an earlier opening was not received was word around the bowhunting circle was "don't rock the boat". If we go with a November 1 opening, maybe they will give us until February 28. He was told before coming to the meeting, not to testify because he would blow the whole deal.

Mr. Bill Shockey stated the public is asking for quality deer management in this state. He then remarked that quality deer management is shooting the does to maintain the habitat in conformity with the population and permitting the young bucks to walk until they can get some age on them. To have a bucks only season open in October without an antler restriction or limiting the number of bucks allowed to be taken is directly contrary to quality deer management.

Mr. Eugene White, manager of a hunting club in Plaquemines Parish, stated they have never had a problem with a late rut. He asked that Plaquemines Parish's season be kept as it was and added he was strictly against moving it back into February.

Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Prickett if he has comments on what has been stated. Mr. Prickett stated there are a lot of different opinions on how to manage deer. He added they do the best job possible in setting seasons over broad areas in order to accommodate biology and user wishes. Staff still feels there is no biological reason not to extend the deer season until February 28 and this has been the majority of comments received. Mr. Prickett feels the fact that the rut in the peripheral of Area 6 may be different is true, but it is also true for all of the other zones as well. The trend has been to consolidate deer areas instead of expanding. Mr. Prickett advised they would meet with the different groups from Area 6, but he still recommended extending the archery season in Area 6 to February 28. Commissioner Stone asked Mr. Prickett if he had any opposition to a bucks only season? Mr. Prickett stated, they commented at the last meeting that it was not biologically advisable to take bucks 3 ½ months before they rut. The earlier bucks are taken before they start breeding and the lower the population goes could result in backing up the breeding chronology of deer. No data is available that will say taking doe deer in Area 6 during October will biologically harm the deer herd. But knowing that 91 percent of the fawns are two months old or

less, the staff cannot consciously recommend hunting doe deer in October.

Mr. Brad Thibodaux commented there are not that many deer killed with bows and if what Mr. Prickett stated is true, then when gun season opens, the bucks will be killed with a gun and this will disrupt the rut also.

Mr. Wayne Thibodaux stated a survey was conducted on 9,500 acres of land two years ago and 10 deer were killed with a bow out of 362. He felt the archers would not kill the bucks and therefore not have any available for breeding. Mr. Thibodaux again stated they would like to have an October 1 opening. Additionally he commented his area is affected by the Mississippi River and when the river rises, this eliminates total access to his land.

Mr. Lionel Bluff, a gun hunter in Area 6 of St. John Parish, asked that the season stay as it was if that is what the bowhunters want. Then he stated, he would like to see the gun season stay as it was.

Mr. Joey Rhodes asked for someone to explain to him, if there is no biological reason to move a season, why move a season? Chairman Gattle felt Mr. Rhodes misunderstood what Mr. Prickett stated and he asked Mr. Prickett to fix the error. Mr. Prickett stated he did not think bowhunters would take enough deer to influence the deer herd; but ethically or morally, he felt it was not right for adult does to be harvested in October which will allow the fawns to die. Commissioner Busbice stated the motion made will extend the archery season and this will result in the same number of days. Mr. Rhodes then stated the bowhunters in the State are very responsible and reliable and their kills should not impact the deer. He felt there are no bowhunters that would kill a mature doe with two spotted fawns. He concluded stating there is no need for a change, the season needs to stay the way it was.

Chairman Gattle again stated the vast majority of comments the Commission has received has asked for the February 28 extension and the comments today are contrary to that request. He still felt there are a lot of people in favor of the extension. Commissioner Felterman stated, based on comments received at the meeting, and not being under any duress to make a decision, he withdrew his motion. He added that a change would be in order, but additional discussion was needed. Now Chairman Gattle asked for comments on the other four proposals recommended by the Department.

An Unidentified Speaker asked that the change for Pass-a-Loutre be extended to include all of Plaquemines Parish since it is all marshland.

Mr. Charlie Smith, Louisiana Charterboat Association, stated his comments were on ducks. Since the charterboat captain license was established in 1995, the number of fishing guides in this State has grown from 200 to 500. But many of the fishing guides supplement their income by becoming duck hunting guides. These guides hunt on WMAs especially Pass-a-Loutre WMA. With the respect to banning guides on WMAs, he stated he did not understand the problem with overcrowding since he has hardly heard any hunters while on the area. The Charterboat Association takes exception to the proposal due to the fact it prevents guides from pursuing their livelihoods and it seems harsh to impose such a regulation when a less drastic measure could be implemented if one was even needed at all. Mr. Smith asked the Commission to change the intent on prohibiting guides on WMAs.

Mr. Mike England, a duck hunter on Pass-a-Loutre for the past 30 years, stated during the past year, several guide hunters moved in on their areas and turned it into a city-like atmosphere. These public lands are for the public and should not be for someone to make a living on. The problem has occurred within the last two years with boats load of tourists coming into the area making all kinds of noises well after hunters are in their blinds. Mr. England stated he was totally against guides on WMAs and that he represents about 50 hunters from that same area.

Mr. Jeff Dauzat, a hunting and fishing guide from Venice, stated he hunts the Pass-a-Loutre WMA and added that he understands the previous gentleman's comments on the problems that may be occurring. He asked that if there is an enforcement problem, let enforcement take action on those individuals and not punish the entire group. Last year Mr. Dauzat had 92 out-of-state clients come in and they spent \$10,580 in license fees of which \$1,380 was WMA license fee. These clients also contributed to the local economy and these small towns depend on this industry to survive. Mr. Dauzat felt the guide ban would eliminate a lot of hunting guides in this area. On the issue of overcrowding, he commented they rarely see anyone. Mr. Dauzat assured the Commission that they are legitimate businessmen and not a group trying to hide in the dark. If the proposal is adopted, his clients from last year will not be able to hunt Pass-a-Loutre again and these people are very upset with that possibility. This issue is an emotional issue and not based on science and Mr. Dauzat recommended the proposal be deferred until such time a scientific study can be done.

Mr. Ed Sexton stated he supports the proposal to ban hunting guides on the WMAs as it is written. He has a problem with taking state land and using it for private enterprise. Hunting guides should have to lease land to hunt and not be allowed to use state WMAs.

Mr. Warren Rabb stated he supports the proposal to ban hunting guides as it is written. It also bothers him that commercial businesses are operating on public lands. He then explained how his hunting is disrupted when large boats anchor in the Mississippi River and then smaller boats bring groups of people into the Pass-a-Loutre area. Mr. Rabb concluded expressing his appreciation for the Commission's efforts.

Mr. Neal Smith stated the perception of the public is that the duck hunting framework for Louisiana is set for the benefit of guides and outfitters along the coast. He then asked the Commission to stick to what has been proposed.

Mr. Harold Loyacano, a duck hunter, stated he did not think it a good idea to have commercial guides on Pass-a-Loutre to shuttle those hunters that would not get to hunt the area because they do not have a boat. He then commented he was 100 percent in favor of outlawing duck hunting guides on all state WMAs.

Mr. Ken Johnson, a professional retriever trainer and duck guide for over 20 years, suffered health problems 5 years ago and he acknowledged this has not stopped his desire to duck hunt. He felt Pass-a-Loutre was a great gift and that it needed to be protected. He felt it was wrong for professional guides to go onto the areas, build blinds, block them off and then guard them just for taking clients to. Mr. Johnson admitted that some guides are guilty of allowing their clients to shoot whatever ducks they want and how ever many they want. He knew there are some good guides in the business, but felt they should be on private lands and the public lands should be for the average hunters.

Chairman Gattle then asked the pleasure of the Commission on the remaining recommendations from the Department. Commissioner Denmon made a motion to post the Commission's intent to change the Notice of Intent regarding Area 1, Area 2, Assumption and Ascension Parishes, the deer bag limit language and the Pass-a-Loutre season change. Commissioner Busbice seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

A Notice of Intent - Suspension of Collection of Portion of Alligator Tag Fee was presented by Mr. Phil Bowman. He began stating the alligator industry was a major success story for the

Department and the State. The alligator has gone from being an endangered species animal to where approximately 200,000 farmed and 35,000 wild alligators are being harvested each year. The Louisiana Legislature established a \$4 tag fee in 1991 to fund the alligator management program. This fee was to be collected on each alligator that was harvested. These funds, as well as others, were to be deposited into a statutorily dedicated Alligator Resource Fund. Mr. Bowman then explained the specific goals set out in statute for the Alligator Resource Fund. At the end of Fiscal Year 2000-01, the Alligator Resource Fund had a balance or surplus of about \$2.4 million. During the past 5 years, even with the funding of the goals as set in statute, the Alligator Resource Fund was growing anywhere from \$100,000 to \$400,000 per year. Mr. Bowman then read that portion of the Notice of Intent that pertained to the tag fees. The Department will continue to monitor the balance in the fund until such time it reaches \$1.5 million when the Department will ask the Commission to reassess this fee. Commissioner Felterman asked if the Louisiana Fur & Alligator Advisory Council has approved this action? Mr. Bowman stated they have had considerable discussion but did not approve it. Mr. Bowman then noted a House Resolution passed by the Legislature asking that no action be taken. But the Department feels the suspension of \$1 of the \$4 tag fee is appropriate right now. Chairman Gattle then asked for public comments.

Mr. Allan Ensminger, a member of the Louisiana Fur & Alligator Advisory Council, stated he was representing Mr. Fats Dupont, Chairman of the Council. Representative Hunt Downer introduced and was successful in passing a Resolution requesting no reduction to the fund. The Council has had discussions with Department staff on funds from tag fees and recognized there is a substantial amount of money generated from the fees. He felt it was fortunate the staff and Legislature had the foresight to establish such a fund that would help carry out this program. But with regard to the reduction in the tag fee, Mr. Ensminger felt no one should be looking at this balance as being surplus money, but more realistically as an insurance policy. Alligator production is totally dependent upon environmental conditions and with the recent drought and salinity encroachment, many of the productive alligator areas did not produce a lot of eggs. As is pointed out in the Resolution, the alligator industry is extremely important to the coastal landowners. Being in the Louisiana Landowners Association and after talking with many coastal landowners, Mr. Ensminger stated no one is opposed to continuing with the \$4 tag fee set aside for alligator research and management programs. Chairman Gattle asked who pays the majority of the tag money? Mr. Ensminger stated the tag money is collected on alligator skins shipped out-of-state, on hatchling alligators shipped out-of-state and label

fees. The bulk of the money comes from the 150,000 alligator skins produced on alligator farms and the 35,000 from the wild alligator harvest. This does represent a significant amount of money for this fund and the work from the legislation needs to be fully implemented by the Department, stated Mr. Ensminger. Chairman Gattle asked if the excess funds were discretionary funds for the Council to do with as they choose? Mr. Ensminger answered yes, and these are recommended to the Department staff.

Mr. Randy Moertle, a representative for major landowners from Cameron Parish to St. Bernard Parish, stated he has been in the alligator industry for 30 years starting when he worked for the Department. He added he has also been involved in various facets of the alligator program. Mr. Moertle then stated he is a member of the Louisiana Landowners Board of Directors and they have discussed the \$4 tag fee many times. The group, represented by farmers, landowners, and trappers, did not agree with reducing the tag fee. He also felt the surplus in the Alligator Resource Fund was an insurance policy in the event of flood, hurricane or nest counts are down. The alligator farmers do pay the largest amount of this tag fee.

Mr. Ted Joanen, representative of the Louisiana Alligator Marketing Group, stated this group was formed about 4 years ago. The primary objective is to improve hide quality by implementing a better harvest and processing technique and developing and expanding markets by dealing with tanneries. Before that time, Mr. Joanen announced he worked for the Department and was in charge of the alligator program. He asked that the Commission keep the \$4 tag fee. This fund has generated some surplus every year and as commented earlier, it serves as an insurance policy. If the tag fee was reduced to \$3, the actual expenditures would barely be covered for the alligator program and would not fund the Fur & Alligator Council, its research nor its marketing. The Alligator Task Force, created by 1999 legislation, was a group of industry people looking at all aspects of the industry and report back to the Legislature and Department. One recommendation from the Task Force was to keep the \$4 tag fee and keep the funding of the Council at the present level. Mr. Joanen agreed that the alligator program is a success story. But he felt a lot more still needs to be done, such as bar codes for the tags and the need for a good laboratory to evaluate diseased alligators. Again, he stated that the \$4 tag fee is extremely important and should remain in place.

Mr. Charlie Pettefer, a trapper, stated he has seen the alligators go from nothing to a big industry. For a business to do good, he felt there was a need for a fund to lay back on in case of a disaster. Mr. Pettefer asked that the fund not be reduced.

Commissioner Sagrera stated Mr. Pettefer mentioned that tanners pay the \$4 tag fee, but that was not correct. He noted 90 percent of the tag fee was paid by the producers and not the tanners.

Mr. Bowman commented that the statute allows for a surplus in the fund, but the question is just how large should the surplus be? The Department has projected that if \$1 of the tag fee was suspended, it may be the year 2006 before reaching that \$1.5 million threshold. The Fund has enough money to operate the alligator program for two years. Statute states that the tag fee may be no more than \$4, but the Commission has the authority to reduce the fee and is mandated to reduce that fee in certain circumstances. Mr. Bowman again requested that the Notice of Intent be adopted which will suspend by \$1 the tag fee for two years or until the Commission takes further action. Commissioner Felterman asked, with reference to the Legislature's Resolution, if they passed the resolution knowing what the surplus was? Mr. Bowman stated he did not know that answer.

Mr. Charlie Pettefer stated it would be an injustice to take away the surplus money.

Chairman Gattle then asked the pleasure of the Commission. Commissioner Sagrera asked Mr. Bowman if the surplus fund would carry the program until 2006 if the tag fee was cut by \$1? Mr. Bowman answered yes, taking into account the current expenditures by the Council and Department along with an inflationary amount added. Commissioner Sagrera asked if this would maintain the program at its present status? Again Mr. Bowman answered yes. Commissioner Sagrera felt if the tag fee was reduced by \$2, the fund would get to the \$1.5 million amount by 2004, which is the timeframe stated in the Notice of Intent. With that stated, Commissioner Sagrera made a motion to suspend \$2 of the \$4 tag fee since it would not affect funding for the Fur & Alligator Advisory Council nor the alligator program until the Commission feels it needs to be changed. Chairman Gattle asked Commissioner Sagrera if he wanted to reduce the fee by \$2? Mr. Bowman asked that the wording be "suspend" instead of "reduce". Commissioner Stone asked what was the incentive to suspend the fee when not many people have complained about it? Mr. Bowman stated the Department has received a number of concerns from alligator farmers in the State. He added that there is a need for a certain surplus, but then the question is asked how much surplus. With the current balance and rate the fund is growing, staff felt it appropriate to suspend collection of \$1 of the tag fee. Commissioner Stone asked why would the Legislature not want the Commission to take the action? Mr. Bowman stated he did not know. Commissioner Felterman stated the confusing thing is the Resolution from the Legislature, the Council

not wanting the Commission to act upon it, the Department has made a recommendation to suspend \$1 and now a motion has been made to suspend \$2. He asked if it was appropriate to take action then? Chairman Gattle reminded there is a motion to increase the suspension from \$1 to \$2, then he asked if there was a second? Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. Commissioner Busbice asked if the Department would have a problem going from a \$3 tag to a \$2 tag? Mr. Bowman answered yes, the Department would like to see how the fund will react over the next several years. Commissioner Denmon then made a substitute motion to follow the Department's recommendation to suspend \$1 of the tag fee. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion. The substitute motion passed with no opposition. Chairman Gattle noted the original Notice of Intent as presented passed. For the record, Commissioner Segrera withdrew his motion.

Mr. Allan Ensminger stated he would take this information back to the Council, discuss it and then present the Commission the outcome of that meeting. He then added that Pass-a-Loutre is a God given place.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby advertises its intent to suspend a portion of the alligator tag fee.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 7. Alligators

§701. Alligator Regulations

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby establish regulations governing the harvest of wild populations of alligators and alligator eggs, raising and propagation of farmed alligators,

tanning of skins and regulations governing the selling of hides, alligator parts and farm raised alligators. The administrative responsibility for these alligator programs shall rest with the Department Secretary; the Assistant Secretary, Office of Wildlife; and the Fur and Refuge Division.

1. - 3. ***

4. Licenses, Permits and Fees

a. The licenses and fees required for activities authorized by these regulations are as prescribed under provisions of Title 56, or as prescribed in these regulations, and are:

* * *

xi. \$4 for each alligator hide tag; provided however, that this Commission does hereby suspend the collection of \$1 of the \$4 tag fee. This suspension shall commence in September 2002 and continue for a period of 2 years or until such time this Commission takes further action, whichever occurs first.

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115, R.S. 56:259, R.S. 56:262, R.S. 56:263 and R.S. 56:280.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:1070 (December 1990), amended LR 17:892 (September 1991), LR 19:215 (February 1993), LR 20:321 (March 1994), LR 26:1492 (July 2000), LR 28: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to: Brandt Savoie, Fur & Refuge Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to Wednesday, July 3, 2002.

In accordance with Act#1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Before going on with the next agenda item, Chairman Gattle asked if there were any other public comments on the hunting rules and regulations not pertaining to the Department's recommendations.

Mr. Chad Dauthier, Quality Deer Management Association, stated he was again presenting their proposal for the 6 point rule. He then stated their proposal was good because it was cheap, free, could be implemented instantly, does not require a lot of data, hunters and landowners from the area supports the proposal, and is biologically justifiable.

Mr. Sam Latino, a representative for west Ascension, west St. James and Assumption Parishes, stated they are 1600 hunting clubs strong that are primarily dog hunters. They asked the Commission to implement a 3 point on one side rule for their area. He felt this would be a good and fair program.

Mr. Kenny Boreal, a hunter from Area 7 specifically Atchafalaya Delta WMA, stated he has bowhunted this area since 1992 when it was just bowhunting. He has seen the seasons change from October, November and December two years ago to last year being November and December and the proposal for this year is November and half of December. He also heard there was a proposal for a youth gun hunt on this WMA and opposed this request. Reasons to oppose this are bowhunters should have a place to hunt without competition from gun hunters and the WMA does not have any trees for stands and could be dangerous for the youth hunters. Mr. Boreal then asked that the bow season be extended through the end of January on Atchafalaya Delta WMA.

Mr. Chad Dauthier clarified that the proposal is a tri-parish area for the parishes of Pointe Coupee, Iberville and West Baton Rouge and does not encompass all of Area 6. He noted they met with the President of the Louisiana Dog Hunters Association and he liked the proposal and did not have any problems with it.

Mr. Ray Bordelon, President of Avoyelles Wildlife Federation and a member of Central Louisiana's Quality Deer Management Association, stated they do support the biologist's report and findings. Also, he commented they do not have a problem with moving a portion of Avoyelles Parish from Area 1 into Area 6. But their concern comes with moving the muzzleloader season into December with no time in January. Again, he stated both organizations are opposed to that particular change.

Chairman Gattle asked the Commission if there were any more comments on this proposed rule. Commissioner Denmon stated he was a strong proponent of quality deer management and agreed with the Department that antler restriction was not the best way to do it. But in light of the fact that the tagging system can not be implemented, Commissioner Denmon made a motion to grant the tri-parish group their request for a mandatory 6 point or better. This would be an experimental program and Commissioner Denmon hoped the Department could monitor it for a three year period and then revisit the issue after that. He really hoped that before the three year period was over, there would be a quality deer management program that would be acceptable statewide. One exception to the proposal was to provide a provision for three inch or shorter bucks. Commissioner Denmon emphasized that he would not support this policy in any other part of the state until it was determined that it was good or bad. This is just an experimental project for this one tri-parish area. Commissioner Stone suggested letting the Department work on parameters rather than leaving it for three years. He then asked why not make a recommendation for the Department to come with a plan for the Commission to look at. Chairman Gattle stated, since this was a proposed Notice of Intent, it could be altered during the 120 days. He felt if a motion was going to be made, it needed to be a positive motion. Mr. Bowman suggested announcing the Commission's intent to modify the existing hunting regulations Notice of Intent with Commissioner Denmon's motion and it could be ratified at the July meeting. Chairman Gattle concurred and Commissioner Denmon stated that was his intent. Commissioner Busbice asked Commissioner Denmon if his motion was for a 6 point or better and spikes 3 inches or smaller? Commissioner Denmon stated that was his motion, but asked for the Department's help in getting the one exception in there to take care of the spike problem. Commissioner Busbice then asked if the period of time was 3 years or 5 years? Commissioner Denmon answered, his motion was for 3 years. Commissioner Busbice asked what criteria would be used to monitor the program? Mr. Prickett asked that he be allowed to sit down with his staff and put

together the best monitoring program and present it to the Commission at the next meeting. Chairman Gattle felt the motion was clear on where Commissioner Denmon wanted to go, but how to fill in all of the blanks would be discussed at the next meeting. Commissioner Stone asked if a motion was needed to ask the Department to look into the proposal? Chairman Gattle answered no. Mr. Prickett remarked staff would do whatever the Commission ask of them and he requested sitting with them after the meeting to get an idea of the details the Department should look into. Commissioner Denmon commented if the consensus was the Department would come at the next meeting with a proposal that would encompass his motion, then he would withdraw his motion. Commissioner Felterman asked how will the public know the Commission is considering the proposal if it is not included in the intent? Commissioner Stone stated the public will not know what is being considered until it is put together. Until all of the parameters are developed on what is being considered, Commissioner Stone did not feel it should be in the realm of public comments. Commissioner Denmon noted he was okay with the Department bringing a recommendation to the next meeting based on his motion. Mr. Prickett asked Commissioner Denmon what did he want the Department to comment on. Commissioner Denmon asked if the Department wanted to comment on the provisions of the 3 year monitoring program and the exception for spike three inches or shorter. Mr. Prickett stated the Department can put a proposal together on how the success of the program would be monitored over the next 3 years. Commissioner Denmon then stated he wanted his motion to remain intact. Commissioner Busbice seconded the motion. Commissioner Stone urged the Commission they were moving too fast. Commissioner Denmon commented that this group has worked on this plan for a year now and he was willing to try this proposal on an experimental basis. He then added that he has not been contacted by any other group from the other 61 parishes that has developed a plan. Commissioner Stone stated those other parishes have not seen the willingness of the Commission to proceed with such plans. He then remarked again that this proposal was going to take some thought and work to get it into the right parameters. Commissioner Stone added that he was for the proposal, but everyone needed to slow down a bit. Hearing no further comments, Chairman Gattle then asked for a roll call vote. The motion passed with opposition from Commissioners Kelly, Sagrera and Stone.

Mr. Wayne Huston began the **Fishing Week Resolution** item by stating that in the past, two days have been set aside in June as free fishing days. He then read the Resolution for the record.

The week of June 1-9, 2002 will be declared Fishing Week in Louisiana and the days of June 8 and 9, 2002 will be declared free recreational fishing days. Chairman Gattle added that this was a good program. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Commissioner Sagrera seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

- WHEREAS,** sportfishing provides recreation for more than sixty million Americans of all ages, giving families a healthy, shared outdoor activity, and
- WHEREAS,** sportfishing, through the payment of millions of dollars annually for licenses, taxes and fees, has provided the funding for federal and state programs that contributes significantly to the preservation and protection of our natural environment, and
- WHEREAS,** the estimated 898,000 plus sportfishermen in Louisiana spend in excess of one billion dollars annually, and
- WHEREAS,** Act 301 of the 1987 Louisiana Legislature authorizes the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to declare no more than two free recreational fishing days each year, and
- WHEREAS,** Free Fishing Days during National Fishing Week would provide an excellent opportunity to introduce additional individuals to the wholesome outdoor activity of fishing.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that we the undersigned members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission do hereby officially declare the week of June 1-9, 2002 as

FISHING WEEK

in the State of Louisiana, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that June 8 & 9, 2002 are hereby declared free recreational fishing days, during which residents and non-residents may exercise the privileges of a licensed recreational fisherman without purchase of any otherwise necessary recreational fishing license.

Date: April 4, 2002

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Terry Denmon
Vice-Chairman

Lee Felterman

Bill Busbice

Wayne Sagrera

H. Jerry Stone

Tom Kelly

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

A Notice of Intent - Prohibit Gill Nets, Trammel Nets, and Fish Seines in Cypress Lake & Black Bayou Reservoir Located in Bossier Parish, Louisiana was presented by Mr. Bennie Fontenot. This proposal would prohibit entanglement gear (gill nets, trammel nets and fish seines) in Cypress Lake and Black Bayou Reservoir in Bossier Parish. The Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District contacted the Department and asked that these nets be removed. Staff did gill net sampling for a 3 year period under their uniformed population sampling scheme and there are not enough commercial species to sustain a commercial fishery. The majority of the catch from the nets were large crappie and Florida bass. Mr. Fontenot stated they do not have any problem with the local Lake Commission's request to remove the nets. Catfish can still be taken using slat traps and hoop nets. Mr. Fontenot then asked the Commission to approve the Notice of Intent. Hearing no questions or comments, Commissioner Kelly made a motion to adopt the Notice of Intent. Commissioner Denmon seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to establish the following rule on commercial netting in Cypress Lake and Black Bayou Reservoir in Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

§195. Cypress Lake and Black Bayou Reservoir Netting Prohibition

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby prohibits the use of gill nets, trammel nets, and fish seines in Cypress Lake and Black Bayou Reservoir, Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

Effective with this prohibition, no person shall possess any gill net, trammel net or fish seine while on the waters of Cypress Lake or Black Bayou Reservoir. In addition, no person shall take, possess or sell any fish, which was taken with a gill net, trammel net or fish seine from Cypress Lake or Black Bayou Reservoir.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:22.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Bennie Fontenot, Administrator, Inland Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 3, 2002.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

In accordance with Act#1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S.49:972(B).


Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Chairman Gattle announced that the **Oyster Task Force Report on Coastal Restoration and the Oyster Industry** would be deferred to the next meeting.

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **August 2002 Meeting** on Thursday, August 1, 2002 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Gattle then asked for any **Public Comments**. Mr. Russell Lantier, Bowhunters Association, reminded the Commission that the Chairman wanted to hear comments only from those who wanted something other than the February 28 extension and that was the reason for the imbalance. A point of clarification, the message to the bowhunters was not "don't rock the boat". The message came directly from Mr. Prickett and it was what the Department recommended. Mr. Lantier felt the Commission would continue to receive calls and correspondence asking for the end of February. Chairman Gattle stated that was what he tried to convey to the audience, but it may have been the wrong tact.

There being no further business, Commissioner Busbice made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly.



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

4/11/2002

Marianne

Please review.

Thanks,

Susan

WB 4/17/02

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, April 4, 2002

Gattle, Jr. presiding.

~~Bill Busbice~~
Terry Denmon
Lee Felterman
Tom Kelly
Wayne Sagrera
Jerry Stone

Secretary James H. Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Chairman Gattle called for a motion for approval of the **March 7, 2002 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Busbice and seconded by Commissioner Sagrera. The motion passed with no opposition.

The **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for March** was given by Major Keith LaCaze. The following numbers of citations were issued during March.

Region I - Minden - 82 citations and 8 warnings.

Region II - Monroe - 63 citations and 4 warnings.

Region III - Alexandria - 47 citations and 13 warnings.

Region IV - Ferriday - 50 citations and 3 warnings.

Region V - Lake Charles - 144 citations and 0 warnings.

Region VI - Opelousas - 157 citations and 12 warnings.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 147 citations and 9 warnings.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 188 citations and 30 warnings.

Region IX - Schriever - 279 citations and 70 warnings.

Oyster Strike Force - 49 citations.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 35 citations.

SWEP - 20 citations and 4 warnings.

Refuge Patrol - 54 citations and 4 warnings.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of March was 1,315. Also there were 157 warning citations issued statewide.

The aviation report for March 2002 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 72.5 hours for enforcement and 10.6 hours for other divisions. Six citations were issued. A total of 718 students were certified in hunter education in March.

Commissioner Busbice asked if citations for hunting turkey over bait were for actually killing a bird or just setting up near the feed? Major LaCaze stated they are set up near the feed. Commissioner Denmon then asked if it was the same charge if a turkey was killed or not? Major LaCaze stated, if a turkey was killed, the charge of taking a turkey by illegal methods could be added to hunting over bait. Then Chairman Gattle told a story of a 12 year old boy hunting and calling turkeys and a bobcat attacking the boy.

Public Comments - 2002-03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules & Regulations began with Mr. Tommy Prickett stating they received lots of comments during the 7 public hearings as well as from letters, phone conversations and personal contacts. He then asked Mr. Jimmy Anthony to recap the comments and present recommended changes as a result of the comments. Mr. Anthony gave an overview from the 7 public hearings. In Minden, 18 people commented on 10 issues with the majority supporting quality deer management in the state. The Ruston meeting had 31 people with 20 comments received mainly on quality deer management, extending the squirrel season through February with dogs and extending the archery season in Area 6 through February. Twenty-one people attended the Alexandria meeting and 6 comments were made with the majority supporting an extension of Area 6 archery through February. In Ferriday, 6 people attended the meeting and 4 comments on the deer season were made. Twenty comments were received at the Lake Charles meeting and the majority

dealt with the new Area 8 created last year. At the Houma meeting, 115 people attended with 59 comments received. The majority of these pertained to the late opening for the archery season in Area 6, 11 were against the late opening but would compromise if the season was extended through February 28. Also, comments on additional dog days in Areas 6 and 7 were received. There were 15 comments received at the Covington meeting with the majority asking that the archery season in Area 6 be extended until February 28. A total of 211 comments to date have been received with 82 being on Area 6 archery season. Thirty-seven support extending the season through February 28, 28 were against opening the season so late. However, most of those people would accept the late opening if the archery season extended through February 28. The second most expressed comment received was for support of a quality deer management in the State. Then quite a bit of support has been received on the proposed ban of hunting guides on WMAs. Then Mr. Anthony went forward with recommended changes to the original Notice of Intent. These included: changing Area 6 from ending on February 2 to extend through February 28. Commissioner Busbice asked if the opening would still be November 1? Mr. Anthony answered yes. Other changes included: extending the gun season from January 17 to January 19 in Area 1 and changing the muzzleloader season to open on January 20 instead of January 18; Area 2 - change the muzzleloader ending date from January 19 to January 17; adding two days of modern firearm either sex hunting to Ascension and Assumption parishes on December 28 and 29; amending the deer limit to 6 instead of having a 2 buck limit; and amending the archery season on Pass-a-Loutre WMA to run from October 1 to January 31 since these deer rut earlier than the rest of Area 6. Mr. Prickett added that Pass-a-Loutre WMA is only archery hunting and the hunters using the area commented October is their best fishing month and they would like to archery hunt and fish at the same time. Commissioner Busbice asked Mr. Anthony if he had the changes in writing. Mr. Anthony stated they just wanted to make the changes public so comments could be received. The rule would not officially be amended until July. Mr. Prickett stated the Notice of Intent will stand as it is, but the Commission has the authority to change the regulation if they are not substantive. He then asked the Commission to notify the public that changes would be made when the final rule is presented at the July meeting. Chairman Gattle asked if a motion was needed to do that and he was told yes. Then he stated the Commission has been inundated with letters and phone calls on the issue of Area 6. The Chairman then asked for a show of hands of those people wanting to make a comment on Area 6 and a majority of the people raised their hands. Chairman Gattle stated they have heard the cry of the bowhunter and if there is a comment different from the Department's proposal, then the Commission would be glad to hear them. Commissioner

Busbice stated the bowhunters he has talked to and received letters from have been very professional and upstanding. Commissioner Felterman also commented he has received a lot of letters and phone calls and with the Department stating there is no biological reason not to change Area 6, he made a motion to extend Area 6 to the end of February for the archery season. Commissioner Sagrera seconded the motion. Chairman Gattle then opened the meeting for comments on this particular issue.

Mr. Kenny Becneaud, a bowhunter in Area 6, stated he was happy with the 28 day extension, but proposed an October 19 through February 19 season. The front end of a season is the season for most archers. Another concern is the cold weather during the month of February may not be good for youth. The opening of October 19 would allow an extra 19 days for fawns and closing on February 19 would allow rabbit hunters an opportunity in the woods alone. If the season could not open on October 19 as he proposed, then Mr. Becneaud recommended opening it for youth only on October 19.

An Unidentified Speaker agreed with the fact that the rut in the Pass-a-Loutre area comes in early to mid-December, and asked that all of Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes stay with the October 1 opening date for archery season. If not, then open a new Area 9 and have an October 1 opening date.

Mr. Danny Bourque began thanking the Department for doing the deer survey in northern Iberville Parish. Members of swamp hunting clubs in the southeastern parishes met on April 2 and the consensus of the meeting was the hunters do not like hunting in February due to the early antler shedding. They would like to see the same season dates as last year. He also stated the archery hunters do not have a problem with an October 1 to November 1 bucks only season. Mr. Bourque then asked that they be allowed to meet with Department staff and try to solve the problem with Area 6 deer season.

Ms. Becky Nicosia, owner of a hunting store in Baton Rouge, introduced Mr. Mike Ewing from Galvez, and commented archery hunting comprises 100 percent of Mr. Ewing's business. Taking away the October 1 opening date would be devastating to their businesses. The proposal to give the days back at the end of the season, not only is it too cold, but a lot of enthusiasm is gone and will not have the effect that is seen in October. Ms. Nicosia asked for a bucks only season or to separate Area 6.

Mr. Mike Ewing stated his customers have expressed to him that if there is no biological impact on the dates at this time, they

would like to see the dates remain as they were last year. Adding February would not make these hunters happy at this time.

Ms. Becky Nicosia added that the bowhunters would not have a problem with dictating a buck size that can be taken in October and having something would be better than having nothing at all.

Mr. Jim Hubbs, a hunter from the east side of the River in Area 6, stated there are some archers in his area and they do not have a problem with a bucks only season in October. They are not interested in hunting deer through February due to the antlers falling off the deer during that time. The major ruts are not occurring as late as it does in the northwest portion of Area 6, stated Mr. Hubbs.

Mr. Ray Bordelon, President of Avoyelles Wildlife Federation, began stating his local newspaper did not publish the local public meetings and they did not have a chance to comment on the changes. He then asked if Avoyelles Parish was changed to be all within Area 6? Mr. Prickett stated he would discuss it with him after the meeting. Mr. Bordelon then stated their biggest concern was changing the muzzleloader season to two weeks in December and not allowing for a week in January like it had been last year. As far as the bowhunters he has talked to, he stated they would rather see the bow season earlier in October and not in February.

Mr. Neal Smith, a hunter in the Atchafalaya within Area 6, stated he wanted to comment on the tagging system and a change in the bucks that has been proposed. Chairman Gattle stated the Commission does not have the authority to implement a tagging system, it will have to be changed legislatively. The Department feels the limiting of bucks without a tagging system would be difficult to enforce. He then added it could not be legislatively changed this year since this is a fiscal session only. Mr. Smith noted the Department's surveys indicate 85 percent wants quality deer management. Back in 1969, he implemented a management program on 4,600 acres of land. Ten years ago, he went to a 6 point or better system and they kill 60 bucks and 20 does a year. Mr. Smith then commented he did not want a tagging system for his land since his program was working. In February, most of the deer that are going to be killed have already been killed and the bowhunters will be left with the scraps if the season was extended through February.

Mr. Wayne Thibodaux, involved with two hunting clubs in the Morganza Spillway area, stated that bowhunters have a little bit of an advantage if allowed to hunt beginning October 1. Their major concern is having a chance to kill a buck or a trophy buck and

their chances to do this are a lot better in October rather than in February. The consensus from these two groups would be to have a bucks only season from October 1 to November 1. But if they had to settle for a February date, they would but it would be a far second choice. Only 10 of 362 deer killed year before last were killed with bows on one of the hunting clubs. Of those 10, only 6 were does and Mr. Thibodaux felt it was just a small portion of the deer population being taken with bows.

Mr. Russell Lantier, representing the State's Bowhunters Association, stated they really appreciate the job the Commission does in trying to satisfy everyone's wants and desires. Then he expressed appreciation to the Wildlife Division staff for explaining the proposed shift in Area 6. He stated he has also received quite a number of calls on this issue with respect to the size and scope of Area 6. Mr. Lantier then asked the Commission to ask questions about these issues within Area 6.

Mr. Randy Siebert, an avid bowhunter from Plaquemines Parish, asked that the bow season stay the same. He then stated he was a rabbit hunter and does all of that hunting in February. If the bow season was pushed back to the end of February, this would eliminate most of his rabbit hunting.

Mr. Pete Braquette, an avid bowhunter in southern portion of Area 6, suggested doing a complete study of the whole area and not just the northwest corner. The results may show that the seasons of November 1 may not make sense for the whole area.

Mr. Ron Hymel, a hunter in Area 6 from the St. John Parish area, stated they would like to see the season stay as it was last year with muzzleloader the first and last weeks of gun season.

Mr. Richard Dugas, owner of an archery shop in West Baton Rouge Parish, stated he was concerned with the financial impact that may be experienced in delaying the opening of the archery season. He also thanked the Commission for their efforts.

Commissioner Stone stated he received 25 or 30 letters and only one asked for an October 1 opening for bucks only and all of the rest would accept a February 28 extension. He then asked for a show of hands for those in favor and opposed to a bucks only October 1 season. The comments received today have switched from the letters that were received, stated Commissioner Stone.

An Unidentified Speaker asked who sets the number of days for deer hunting? Chairman Gattle answered the Department sets the

days. Then the speaker asked for a bucks only season in October and extend the season through February so the does could be hunted.

Mr. Joey Rhodes asked, in Plaquemines Parish, to keep the season the same as it was. He added he was not opposed to the rest of Area 6 being bucks only.

Mr. Kenny Becneaud stated the reason no comments on an earlier opening was not received was word around the bowhunting circle was "don't rock the boat". If we go with a November 1 opening, maybe they will give us until February 28. He was told before coming to the meeting, not to testify because he would blow the whole deal.

Mr. Bill Shockey stated the public is asking for quality deer management in this state. He then remarked that quality deer management is shooting the does to maintain the habitat in conformity with the population and permitting the young bucks to walk until they can get some age on them. To have a bucks only season open in October without an antler restriction or limiting the number of bucks allowed to be taken is directly contrary to quality deer management.

Mr. Eugene White, manager of a hunting club in Plaquemines Parish, stated they have never had a problem with a late rut. He asked that Plaquemines Parish's season be kept as it was and added he was strictly against moving it back into February.

Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Prickett if he has comments on what has been stated. Mr. Prickett stated there are a lot of different opinions on how to manage deer. He added they do the best job possible in setting seasons over broad areas in order to accommodate biology and user wishes. Staff still feels there is no biological reason not to extend the deer season until February 28 and this has been the majority of comments received. Mr. Prickett feels the fact that the rut in the peripheral of Area 6 may be different is true, but it is also true for all of the other zones as well. The trend has been to consolidate deer areas instead of expanding. Mr. Prickett advised they would meet with the different groups from Area 6, but he still recommended extending the archery season in Area 6 to February 28. Commissioner Stone asked Mr. Prickett if he had any opposition to a bucks only season? Mr. Prickett stated, they commented at the last meeting that it was not biologically advisable to take bucks 3 ½ months before they rut. The earlier bucks are taken before they start breeding and the lower the population goes could result in backing up the breeding chronology of deer. No data is available that will say taking doe deer in Area 6 during October will biologically harm the deer herd. But knowing that 91 percent of the fawns are two months old or

less, the staff cannot consciously recommend hunting doe deer in October.

Mr. Brad Thibodaux commented there are not that many deer killed with bows and if what Mr. Prickett stated is true, then when gun season opens, the bucks will be killed with a gun and this will disrupt the rut also.

Mr. Wayne Thibodaux stated a survey was conducted on 9,500 acres of land two years ago and 10 deer were killed with a bow out of 362. He felt the archers would not kill the bucks and therefore not have any available for breeding. Mr. Thibodaux again stated they would like to have an October 1 opening. Additionally he commented his area is affected by the Mississippi River and when the river rises, this eliminates total access to his land.

Mr. Lionel Bluff, a gun hunter in Area 6 of St. John Parish, asked that the season stay as it was if that is what the bowhunters want. Then he stated, he would like to see the gun season stay as it was.

Mr. Joey Rhodes asked for someone to explain to him, if there is no biological reason to move a season, why move a season? Chairman Gattle felt Mr. Rhodes misunderstood what Mr. Prickett stated and he asked Mr. Prickett to fix the error. Mr. Prickett stated he did not think bowhunters would take enough deer to influence the deer herd; but ethically or morally, he felt it was not right for adult does to be harvested in October which will allow the fawns to die. Commissioner Busbice stated the motion made will extend the archery season and this will result in the same number of days. Mr. Rhodes then stated the bowhunters in the State are very responsible and reliable and their kills should not impact the deer. He felt there are no bowhunters that would kill a mature doe with two spotted fawns. He concluded stating there is no need for a change, the season needs to stay the way it was.

Chairman Gattle again stated the vast majority of comments the Commission has received has asked for the February 28 extension and the comments today are contrary to that request. He still felt there are a lot of people in favor of the extension. Commissioner Felterman stated, based on comments received at the meeting, and not being under any duress to make a decision, he withdrew his motion. He added that a change would be in order, but additional discussion was needed. Now Chairman Gattle asked for comments on the other four proposals recommended by the Department.

An Unidentified Speaker asked that the change for Pass-a-Loutre be extended to include all of Plaquemines Parish since it is all marshland.

Mr. Charlie Smith, Louisiana Charterboat Association, stated his comments were on ducks. Since the charterboat captain license was established in 1995, the number of fishing guides in this State has grown from 200 to 500. But many of the fishing guides supplement their income by becoming duck hunting guides. These guides hunt on WMAs especially Pass-a-Loutre WMA. With the respect to banning guides on WMAs, he stated he did not understand the problem with overcrowding since he has hardly heard any hunters while on the area. The Charterboat Association takes exception to the proposal due to the fact it prevents guides from pursuing their livelihoods and it seems harsh to impose such a regulation when a less drastic measure could be implemented if one was even needed at all. Mr. Smith asked the Commission to change the intent on prohibiting guides on WMAs.

Mr. Mike England, a duck hunter on Pass-a-Loutre for the past 30 years, stated during the past year, several guide hunters moved in on their areas and turned it into a city-like atmosphere. These public lands are for the public and should not be for someone to make a living on. The problem has occurred within the last two years with boats load of tourists coming into the area making all kinds of noises well after hunters are in their blinds. Mr. England stated he was totally against guides on WMAs and that he represents about 50 hunters from that same area.

Mr. Jeff Dauzat, a hunting and fishing guide from Venice, stated he hunts the Pass-a-Loutre WMA and added that he understands the previous gentleman's comments on the problems that may be occurring. He asked that if there is an enforcement problem, let enforcement take action on those individuals and not punish the entire group. Last year Mr. Dauzat had 92 out-of-state clients come in and they spent \$10,580 in license fees of which \$1,380 was WMA license fee. These clients also contributed to the local economy and these small towns depend on this industry to survive. Mr. Dauzat felt the guide ban would eliminate a lot of hunting guides in this area. On the issue of overcrowding, he commented they rarely see anyone. Mr. Dauzat assured the Commission that they are legitimate businessmen and not a group trying to hide in the dark. If the proposal is adopted, his clients from last year will not be able to hunt Pass-a-Loutre again and these people are very upset with that possibility. This issue is an emotional issue and not based on science and Mr. Dauzat recommended the proposal be deferred until such time a scientific study can be done.

Mr. Ed Sexton stated he supports the proposal to ban hunting guides on the WMAs as it is written. He has a problem with taking state land and using it for private enterprise. Hunting guides should have to lease land to hunt and not be allowed to use state WMAs.

Mr. Warren Rabb stated he supports the proposal to ban hunting guides as it is written. It also bothers him that commercial businesses are operating on public lands. He then explained how his hunting is disrupted when large boats anchor in the Mississippi River and then smaller boats bring groups of people into the Pass-a-Loutre area. Mr. Rabb concluded expressing his appreciation for the Commission's efforts.

Mr. Neal Smith stated the perception of the public is that the duck hunting framework for Louisiana is set for the benefit of guides and outfitters along the coast. He then asked the Commission to stick to what has been proposed.

Mr. Harold Loyacano, a duck hunter, stated he did not think it a good idea to have commercial guides on Pass-a-Loutre to shuttle those hunters that would not get to hunt the area because they do not have a boat. He then commented he was 100 percent in favor of outlawing duck hunting guides on all state WMAs.

Mr. Ken Johnson, a professional retriever trainer and duck guide for over 20 years, suffered health problems 5 years ago and he acknowledged this has not stopped his desire to duck hunt. He felt Pass-a-Loutre was a great gift and that it needed to be protected. He felt it was wrong for professional guides to go onto the areas, build blinds, block them off and then guard them just for taking clients to. Mr. Johnson admitted that some guides are guilty of allowing their clients to shoot whatever ducks they want and how ever many they want. He knew there are some good guides in the business, but felt they should be on private lands and the public lands should be for the average hunters.

Chairman Gattle then asked the pleasure of the Commission on the remaining recommendations from the Department. Commissioner Denmon made a motion to post the Commission's intent to change the Notice of Intent regarding Area 1, Area 2, Assumption and Ascension Parishes, the deer bag limit language and the Pass-a-Loutre season change. Commissioner Busbice seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

A Notice of Intent - Suspension of Collection of Portion of Alligator Tag Fee was presented by Mr. Phil Bowman. He began stating the alligator industry was a major success story for the

Department and the State. The alligator has gone from being an endangered species animal to where approximately 200,000 farmed and 35,000 wild alligators are being harvested each year. The Louisiana Legislature established a \$4 tag fee in 1991 to fund the alligator management program. This fee was to be collected on each alligator that was harvested. These funds, as well as others, were to be deposited into a statutorily dedicated Alligator Resource Fund. Mr. Bowman then explained the specific goals set out in statute for the Alligator Resource Fund. At the end of Fiscal Year 2000-01, the Alligator Resource Fund had a balance or surplus of about \$2.4 million. During the past 5 years, even with the funding of the goals as set in statute, the Alligator Resource Fund was growing anywhere from \$100,000 to \$400,000 per year. Mr. Bowman then read that portion of the Notice of Intent that pertained to the tag fees. The Department will continue to monitor the balance in the fund until such time it reaches \$1.5 million when the Department will ask the Commission to reassess this fee. Commissioner Feltermann asked if the Louisiana Fur & Alligator Advisory Council has approved this action? Mr. Bowman stated they have had considerable discussion but did not approve it. Mr. Bowman then noted a House Resolution passed by the Legislature asking that no action be taken. But the Department feels the suspension of \$1 of the \$4 tag fee is appropriate right now. Chairman Gattle then asked for public comments.

Mr. Allan Ensminger, a member of the Louisiana Fur & Alligator Advisory Council, stated he was representing Mr. Fats Dupont, Chairman of the Council. Representative Hunt Downer introduced and was successful in passing a Resolution requesting no reduction to the fund. The Council has had discussions with Department staff on funds from tag fees and recognized there is a substantial amount of money generated from the fees. He felt it was fortunate the staff and Legislature had the foresight to establish such a fund that would help carry out this program. But with regard to the reduction in the tag fee, Mr. Ensminger felt no one should be looking at this balance as being surplus money, but more realistically as an insurance policy. Alligator production is totally dependent upon environmental conditions and with the recent drought and salinity encroachment, many of the productive alligator areas did not produce a lot of eggs. As is pointed out in the Resolution, the alligator industry is extremely important to the coastal landowners. Being in the Louisiana Landowners Association and after talking with many coastal landowners, Mr. Ensminger stated no one is opposed to continuing with the \$4 tag fee set aside for alligator research and management programs. Chairman Gattle asked who pays the majority of the tag money? Mr. Ensminger stated the tag money is collected on alligator skins shipped out-of-state, on hatchling alligators shipped out-of-state and label

fees. The bulk of the money comes from the 150,000 alligator skins produced on alligator farms and the 35,000 from the wild alligator harvest. This does represent a significant amount of money for this fund and the work from the legislation needs to be fully implemented by the Department, stated Mr. Ensminger. Chairman Gattle asked if the excess funds were discretionary funds for the Council to do with as they choose? Mr. Ensminger answered yes, and these are recommended to the Department staff.

Mr. Randy Moertle, a representative for major landowners from Cameron Parish to St. Bernard Parish, stated he has been in the alligator industry for 30 years starting when he worked for the Department. He added he has also been involved in various facets of the alligator program. Mr. Moertle then stated he is a member of the Louisiana Landowners Board of Directors and they have discussed the \$4 tag fee many times. The group, represented by farmers, landowners, and trappers, did not agree with reducing the tag fee. He also felt the surplus in the Alligator Resource Fund was an insurance policy in the event of flood, hurricane or nest counts are down. The alligator farmers do pay the largest amount of this tag fee.

Mr. Ted Joanen, representative of the Louisiana Alligator Marketing Group, stated this group was formed about 4 years ago. The primary objective is to improve hide quality by implementing a better harvest and processing technique and developing and expanding markets by dealing with tanneries. Before that time, Mr. Joanen announced he worked for the Department and was in charge of the alligator program. He asked that the Commission keep the \$4 tag fee. This fund has generated some surplus every year and as commented earlier, it serves as an insurance policy. If the tag fee was reduced to \$3, the actual expenditures would barely be covered for the alligator program and would not fund the Fur & Alligator Council, its research nor its marketing. The Alligator Task Force, created by 1999 legislation, was a group of industry people looking at all aspects of the industry and report back to the Legislature and Department. One recommendation from the Task Force was to keep the \$4 tag fee and keep the funding of the Council at the present level. Mr. Joanen agreed that the alligator program is a success story. But he felt a lot more still needs to be done, such as bar codes for the tags and the need for a good laboratory to evaluate diseased alligators. Again, he stated that the \$4 tag fee is extremely important and should remain in place.

Mr. Charlie Pettefer, a trapper, stated he has seen the alligators go from nothing to a big industry. For a business to do good, he felt there was a need for a fund to lay back on in case of a disaster. Mr. Pettefer asked that the fund not be reduced.

Commissioner Sagrera stated Mr. Pettefer mentioned that tanners pay the \$4 tag fee, but that was not correct. He noted 90 percent of the tag fee was paid by the producers and not the tanners.

Mr. Bowman commented that the statute allows for a surplus in the fund, but the question is just how large should the surplus be? The Department has projected that if \$1 of the tag fee was suspended, it may be the year 2006 before reaching that \$1.5 million threshold. The Fund has enough money to operate the alligator program for two years. Statute states that the tag fee may be no more than \$4, but the Commission has the authority to reduce the fee and is mandated to reduce that fee in certain circumstances. Mr. Bowman again requested that the Notice of Intent be adopted which will suspend by \$1 the tag fee for two years or until the Commission takes further action. Commissioner Felterman asked, with reference to the Legislature's Resolution, if they passed the resolution knowing what the surplus was? Mr. Bowman stated he did not know that answer.

Mr. Charlie Pettefer stated it would be an injustice to take away the surplus money.

Chairman Gattle then asked the pleasure of the Commission. Commissioner Sagrera asked Mr. Bowman if the surplus fund would carry the program until 2006 if the tag fee was cut by \$1? Mr. Bowman answered yes, taking into account the current expenditures by the Council and Department along with an inflationary amount added. Commissioner Sagrera asked if this would maintain the program at its present status? Again Mr. Bowman answered yes. Commissioner Sagrera felt if the tag fee was reduced by \$2, the fund would get to the \$1.5 million amount by 2004, which is the timeframe stated in the Notice of Intent. With that stated, Commissioner Sagrera made a motion to suspend \$2 of the \$4 tag fee since it would not affect funding for the Fur & Alligator Advisory Council nor the alligator program until the Commission feels it needs to be changed. Chairman Gattle asked Commissioner Sagrera if he wanted to reduce the fee by \$2? Mr. Bowman asked that the wording be "suspend" instead of "reduce". Commissioner Stone asked what was the incentive to suspend the fee when not many people have complained about it? Mr. Bowman stated the Department has received a number of concerns from alligator farmers in the State. He added that there is a need for a certain surplus, but then the question is asked how much surplus. With the current balance and rate the fund is growing, staff felt it appropriate to suspend collection of \$1 of the tag fee. Commissioner Stone asked why would the Legislature not want the Commission to take the action? Mr. Bowman stated he did not know. Commissioner Felterman stated the confusing thing is the Resolution from the Legislature, the Council

not wanting the Commission to act upon it, the Department has made a recommendation to suspend \$1 and now a motion has been made to suspend \$2. He asked if it was appropriate to take action then? Chairman Gattle reminded there is a motion to increase the suspension from \$1 to \$2, then he asked if there was a second? Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion. Commissioner Busbice asked if the Department would have a problem going from a \$3 tag to a \$2 tag? Mr. Bowman answered yes, the Department would like to see how the fund will react over the next several years. Commissioner Denmon then made a substitute motion to follow the Department's recommendation to suspend \$1 of the tag fee. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion. The substitute motion passed with no opposition. Chairman Gattle noted the original Notice of Intent as presented passed. For the record, Commissioner Sagrera withdrew his motion.

Mr. Allan Ensminger stated he would take this information back to the Council, discuss it and then present the Commission the outcome of that meeting. He then added that Pass-a-Loutre is a God given place.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby advertises its intent to suspend a portion of the alligator tag fee.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 7. Alligators

§701. Alligator Regulations

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby establish regulations governing the harvest of wild populations of alligators and alligator eggs, raising and propagation of farmed alligators,

tanning of skins and regulations governing the selling of hides, alligator parts and farm raised alligators. The administrative responsibility for these alligator programs shall rest with the Department Secretary; the Assistant Secretary, Office of Wildlife; and the Fur and Refuge Division.

1. - 3. ***

4. Licenses, Permits and Fees

a. The licenses and fees required for activities authorized by these regulations are as prescribed under provisions of Title 56, or as prescribed in these regulations, and are:

* * *

xi. \$4 for each alligator hide tag; provided however, that this Commission does hereby suspend the collection of \$1 of the \$4 tag fee. This suspension shall commence in September 2002 and continue for a period of 2 years or until such time this Commission takes further action, whichever occurs first.

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115, R.S. 56:259, R.S. 56:262, R.S. 56:263 and R.S. 56:280.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:1070 (December 1990), amended LR 17:892 (September 1991), LR 19:215 (February 1993), LR 20:321 (March 1994), LR 26:1492 (July 2000), LR 28: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to: Brandt Savoie, Fur & Refuge Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to Wednesday, July 3, 2002.

In accordance with Act#1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Before going on with the next agenda item, Chairman Gattle asked if there were any other public comments on the hunting rules and regulations not pertaining to the Department's recommendations.

Mr. Chad Dauthier, Quality Deer Management Association, stated he was again presenting their proposal for the 6 point rule. He then stated their proposal was good because it was cheap, free, could be implemented instantly, does not require a lot of data, hunters and landowners from the area supports the proposal, and is biologically justifiable.

Mr. Sam Latino, a representative for west Ascension, west St. James and Assumption Parishes, stated they are 1600 hunting clubs strong that are primarily dog hunters. They asked the Commission to implement a 3 point on one side rule for their area. He felt this would be a good and fair program.

Mr. Kenny Boreal, a hunter from Area 7 specifically Atchafalaya Delta WMA, stated he has bowhunted this area since 1992 when it was just bowhunting. He has seen the seasons change from October, November and December two years ago to last year being November and December and the proposal for this year is November and half of December. He also heard there was a proposal for a youth gun hunt on this WMA and opposed this request. Reasons to oppose this are bowhunters should have a place to hunt without competition from gun hunters and the WMA does not have any trees for stands and could be dangerous for the youth hunters. Mr. Boreal then asked that the bow season be extended through the end of January on Atchafalaya Delta WMA.

Mr. Chad Dauthier clarified that the proposal is a tri-parish area for the parishes of Pointe Coupee, Iberville and West Baton Rouge and does not encompass all of Area 6. He noted they met with the President of the Louisiana Dog Hunters Association and he liked the proposal and did not have any problems with it.

Mr. Ray Bordelon, President of Avoyelles Wildlife Federation and a member of Central Louisiana's Quality Deer Management Association, stated they do support the biologist's report and findings. Also, he commented they do not have a problem with moving a portion of Avoyelles Parish from Area 1 into Area 6. But their concern comes with moving the muzzleloader season into December with no time in January. Again, he stated both organizations are opposed to that particular change.

Chairman Gattle asked the Commission if there were any more comments on this proposed rule. Commissioner Denmon stated he was a strong proponent of quality deer management and agreed with the Department that antler restriction was not the best way to do it. But in light of the fact that the tagging system can not be implemented, Commissioner Denmon made a motion to grant the tri-parish group their request for a mandatory 6 point or better. This would be an experimental program and Commissioner Denmon hoped the Department could monitor it for a three year period and then revisit the issue after that. He really hoped that before the three year period was over, there would be a quality deer management program that would be acceptable statewide. One exception to the proposal was to provide a provision for three inch or shorter bucks. Commissioner Denmon emphasized that he would not support this policy in any other part of the state until it was determined that it was good or bad. This is just an experimental project for this one tri-parish area. Commissioner Stone suggested letting the Department work on parameters rather than leaving it for three years. He then asked why not make a recommendation for the Department to come with a plan for the Commission to look at. Chairman Gattle stated, since this was a proposed Notice of Intent, it could be altered during the 120 days. He felt if a motion was going to be made, it needed to be a positive motion. Mr. Bowman suggested announcing the Commission's intent to modify the existing hunting regulations Notice of Intent with Commissioner Denmon's motion and it could be ratified at the July meeting. Chairman Gattle concurred and Commissioner Denmon stated that was his intent. Commissioner Busbice asked Commissioner Denmon if his motion was for a 6 point or better and spikes 3 inches or smaller? Commissioner Denmon stated that was his motion, but asked for the Department's help in getting the one exception in there to take care of the spike problem. Commissioner Busbice then asked if the period of time was 3 years or 5 years? Commissioner Denmon answered, his motion was for 3 years. Commissioner Busbice asked what criteria would be used to monitor the program? Mr. Prickett asked that he be allowed to sit down with his staff and put

together the best monitoring program and present it to the Commission at the next meeting. Chairman Gattle felt the motion was clear on where Commissioner Denmon wanted to go, but how to fill in all of the blanks would be discussed at the next meeting. Commissioner Stone asked if a motion was needed to ask the Department to look into the proposal? Chairman Gattle answered no. Mr. Prickett remarked staff would do whatever the Commission ask of them and he requested sitting with them after the meeting to get an idea of the details the Department should look into. Commissioner Denmon commented if the consensus was the Department would come at the next meeting with a proposal that would encompass his motion, then he would withdraw his motion. Commissioner Feltermann asked how will the public know the Commission is considering the proposal if it is not included in the intent? Commissioner Stone stated the public will not know what is being considered until it is put together. Until all of the parameters are developed on what is being considered, Commissioner Stone did not feel it should be in the realm of public comments. Commissioner Denmon noted he was okay with the Department bringing a recommendation to the next meeting based on his motion. Mr. Prickett asked Commissioner Denmon what did he want the Department to comment on. Commissioner Denmon asked if the Department wanted to comment on the provisions of the 3 year monitoring program and the exception for spike three inches or shorter. Mr. Prickett stated the Department can put a proposal together on how the success of the program would be monitored over the next 3 years. Commissioner Denmon then stated he wanted his motion to remain intact. Commissioner Busbice seconded the motion. Commissioner Stone urged the Commission they were moving too fast. Commissioner Denmon commented that this group has worked on this plan for a year now and he was willing to try this proposal on an experimental basis. He then added that he has not been contacted by any other group from the other 61 parishes that has developed a plan. Commissioner Stone stated those other parishes have not seen the willingness of the Commission to proceed with such plans. He then remarked again that this proposal was going to take some thought and work to get it into the right parameters. Commissioner Stone added that he was for the proposal, but everyone needed to slow down a bit. Hearing no further comments, Chairman Gattle then asked for a roll call vote. The motion passed with opposition from Commissioners Kelly, Sagerera and Stone.

Mr. Wayne Huston began the **Fishing Week Resolution** item by stating that in the past, two days have been set aside in June as free fishing days. He then read the Resolution for the record.

The week of June 1-9, 2002 will be declared Fishing Week in Louisiana and the days of June 8 and 9, 2002 will be declared free recreational fishing days. Chairman Gattle added that this was a good program. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Commissioner Sagrera seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution is made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

WHEREAS, sportfishing provides recreation for more than sixty million Americans of all ages, giving families a healthy, shared outdoor activity, and

WHEREAS, sportfishing, through the payment of millions of dollars annually for licenses, taxes and fees, has provided the funding for federal and state programs that contributes significantly to the preservation and protection of our natural environment, and

WHEREAS, the estimated 898,000 plus sportfishermen in Louisiana spend in excess of one billion dollars annually, and

WHEREAS, Act 301 of the 1987 Louisiana Legislature authorizes the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to declare no more than two free recreational fishing days each year, and

WHEREAS, Free Fishing Days during National Fishing Week would provide an excellent opportunity to introduce additional individuals to the wholesome outdoor activity of fishing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we the undersigned members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission do hereby officially declare the week of June 1-9, 2002 as

FISHING WEEK

in the State of Louisiana, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that June 8 & 9, 2002 are hereby declared free recreational fishing days, during which residents and non-residents may exercise the privileges of a licensed recreational fisherman without purchase of any otherwise necessary recreational fishing license.

Date: April 4, 2002

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Terry Denmon
Vice-Chairman

Lee Felterman

Bill Busbice

Wayne Sagrera

H. Jerry Stone

Tom Kelly

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

A Notice of Intent - Prohibit Gill Nets, Trammel Nets, and Fish Seines in Cypress Lake & Black Bayou Reservoir Located in Bossier Parish, Louisiana was presented by Mr. Bennie Fontenot. This proposal would prohibit entanglement gear (gill nets, trammel nets and fish seines) in Cypress Lake and Black Bayou Reservoir in Bossier Parish. The Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District contacted the Department and asked that these nets be removed. Staff did gill net sampling for a 3 year period under their uniformed population sampling scheme and there are not enough commercial species to sustain a commercial fishery. The majority of the catch from the nets were large crappie and Florida bass. Mr. Fontenot stated they do not have any problem with the local Lake Commission's request to remove the nets. Catfish can still be taken using slat traps and hoop nets. Mr. Fontenot then asked the Commission to approve the Notice of Intent. Hearing no questions or comments, Commissioner Kelly made a motion to adopt the Notice of Intent. Commissioner Denmon seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to establish the following rule on commercial netting in Cypress Lake and Black Bayou Reservoir in Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

§195. Cypress Lake and Black Bayou Reservoir Netting Prohibition

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby prohibits the use of gill nets, trammel nets, and fish seines in Cypress Lake and Black Bayou Reservoir, Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

Effective with this prohibition, no person shall possess any gill net, trammel net or fish seine while on the waters of Cypress Lake or Black Bayou Reservoir. In addition, no person shall take, possess or sell any fish, which was taken with a gill net, trammel net or fish seine from Cypress Lake or Black Bayou Reservoir.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:22.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Bennie Fontenot, Administrator, Inland Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 3, 2002.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

In accordance with Act#1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S.49:972(B).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Chairman Gattle announced that the **Oyster Task Force Report on Coastal Restoration and the Oyster Industry** would be deferred to the next meeting.

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **August 2002 Meeting** on Thursday, August 1, 2002 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Gattle then asked for any **Public Comments**. Mr. Russell Lantier, Bowhunters Association, reminded the Commission that the Chairman wanted to hear comments only from those who wanted something other than the February 28 extension and that was the reason for the imbalance. A point of clarification, the message to the bowhunters was not "don't rock the boat". The message came directly from Mr. Prickett and it was what the Department recommended. Mr. Lantier felt the Commission would continue to receive calls and correspondence asking for the end of February. Chairman Gattle stated that was what he tried to convey to the audience, but it may have been the wrong tact.

There being no further business, Commissioner Busbice made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly.

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

Home	Entertainment
News	Obituaries
Sports	Marketplace
Business	Site Map
Classifieds	Weather

The Advocate **ONLINE**

[Back to Index](#)*Published on 4/7/02*[E-mail this story to a friend](#)

LWFC deals with deer dates

By **JOE MACALUSO**

Advocate outdoors writer

Hundreds of hunters turned out to protest the proposed Area 6 deer-hunting dates, and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries personnel documented those objections in public hearings, from phone calls and through the mail in March.

Until Thursday's Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting, state Wildlife Division managers and the LWFC members said they thought they'd heard it all.

Wildlife Division assistant administrator Jimmy Anthony said most of the objections came from archery hunters, who were protesting the change from the usual Oct. 1-Jan. 31 deer-hunting season to a Nov. 1-Feb. 2 period.

"Our problem was that we didn't pick up any days on the other end of the season," Bayou State Bowhunters spokesman Russell Lantier said. "We lost a month on the front end and picked up two days on the back end."

Anthony said virtually all archers asked to extend the season closing to Feb. 28. LWFC member Lee Felterman advanced that as a change in the Area 6 season dates that were part of the proposed 2002-03 resident-game season dates and limits made at last month's LWFC gathering.

When LWFC chairman Tom Gattle opened the meeting to public comment, a procession of archery, muzzleloader and rifle hunters contradicted the Wildlife Division's already-gathered information.

For various reasons -- February's cold, the lateness of February in the deer-hunting cycle, bucks shedding antlers by last January, interference with late-season rabbit hunters and a two-day reduction in the Area 6 muzzleloader season -- the LWFC learned there were other problems with the Area 6 proposals.

Acting on a years-long study that showed a predominance of spotted fawns in Area 6 well into October, the LDWF proposed dramatically different deer hunting dates for the area that takes in parishes west, south and east of Baton Rouge.

The 2001-02 seasons ran Oct. 1-Jan. 31 for archers, two 7-day splits for the muzzleloader-only season (one in December and the second running through Jan. 28), and a modern-firearms season that ended Jan. 21.

In addition to the changes in the archery season, the proposed 2002-2003 dates are Dec. 9-Dec. 20 muzzleloader-only, Nov. 23-Dec 8 modern firearms season (still hunt only), and Dec. 21-Feb. 2 for hunting with or without dogs.

Three Baton Rouge area archery shopowners added another twist in the discussion of a Feb. 28 archery-season extension.

Becky Nicosia and Richard Dugas have hunting shops in Baton Rouge and in Brusly and said a Nov. 1-Feb. 28 would hurt business.

"We call it 'whitetail anticipation,' and we see it start in August and build to the Oct. 1 opening date," Nicosia said. "Opening the season Nov. 1 would devastate our business, because in February that enthusiasm is gone."

Dugas said his Brusly store has been a beehive of activity since March's announcement. He said bowhunters are not happy.

"The hunters don't want to wait until Nov. 1," Dugas said. "And I'm very concerned with the financial impact the delay will cause."

Archery hunters speaking at Thursday's meeting said an Oct. 1-31 bucks-only archery season is solid alternative.

Feltermann withdrew his motion.

Some 30 minutes later, the LWFC approved another change for the Area 6 season when it added three-year, 6-point bucks rule for Pointe Coupee, Iberville and West Baton Rouge Parishes. Hunters there will be limited to taking bucks with 6 more tines in their antlers. Commission member Terry Denmon proposed the change and added that an exception should be made for young hunters. He said they should be allowed to take spiked bucks in the three-parish area.

Other proposed deer-season changes include:

- Moving the closing date of the Area 1 modern firearms season to Jan. 19 from Jan. 17, which moved the second split of muzzleloader-only season from Jan. 18-26 to Jan. 20-26.
- Making a Jan. 11-17 muzzleloader season in Area 2. The initial proposal was Jan. 11-19.
- Adding Dec. 28 and 29 to the either-sex seasons in Ascension and Assumption parishes.
- Moving archery season on the Pass a Loutre Wildlife Management

Area, which is in Area 6, from Nov. 1-Feb. 2 to Oct. 1- Jan. 31.

[Top of page](#)

SITE INDEX

HOME:	About Us Archives Help Search Site Map Subscribe
NEWS:	AP Wire Elections Health news Legislature Photo Gallery Police Briefs Religion School News Schools: Desegregation Science Smiley
SUBURBAN NEWS:	Acadiana Baker, Zachary, Felicianas Florida parishes River parishes Westside
WEATHER:	Current Weather
SPORTS:	ECHL hockey High school sports LSU sports Outdoors New Orleans Saints SEC FanaticZone Southern University Team Schedules
PEOPLE:	Obituaries Food Teen Stuff
ENTERTAINMENT:	Movies TV Listings Music Books Comics Horoscopes Crossword Wordsearch Software Reviews Travel Personals
BUSINESS:	Briefs Technobabble Motley Fool
OPINION:	Inside Report Joan McKinney Milford Fryer Our Views Perspective Political Horizons
ADVERTISING:	Advertise with Us ADvocate ADvantages Apartment Directory Classifieds Display (Graphical) Ads Employment Classifieds La Job Market Marketplace Real Estate Classifieds Wheels (Automotive) Section Yellow Pages
SPECIAL SECTIONS:	Millennium Vacation Weddings World Wide Wanderers Other Special Sections

Copyright © 1995-2002, The Advocate, Capital City Press, All Rights Reserved.

Comments about our site, write: comments@theadvocate.com

[Advertise with us](#)

For information about newspaper jobs @ The Advocate - [click here](#)



**Advertising from
The Advocate Newspaper**



Joe Macaluso

The Advocate **ONLINE**

The Wild Side headlines and date of publication

Confused? Join the crowd --- 4/7/02



View

Published on 4/7/02

[E-mail this story to a friend](#)

The Wild Side

Confused? Join the crowd

Dazed and confused over this Area 6 deer-hunting proposal? Join the crowd. After what happened at Thursday's Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting, the situation is going to become more confusing until the LWFC ratifies the seasons at its July 2 meeting.

Since the deer seasons were proposed in early March, when state wildlife managers came up with a dramatic shift in the deer hunting dates for all or parts of 21 southeastern parishes, confusion has reigned among the LWFC, wildlife managers and loads of extra-irritated hunters.

In degrees, objections are a one-month shift in the archery season, an early February end to the gun-hunting season and a 12-day muzzleloader season (instead of two 7-day seasons).

The dynamic force here is a study showing late-breeding cycles for Area 6 deer, meaning we have too many spotted fawns in woods, swamps, fields and marshes in October. In turn, and since archery season allows taking bucks and does, it meant state biologists are hesitant about continuing the long-accepted Oct. 1 opening of the archery season. Taking a doe with spotted fawns during October means fawns are not likely to survive.

The study also showed a later breeding cycle -- the "rut" -- meant that prized Area 6 bucks were more active in late season. So, the LDWF staff saw no problem in moving the end of the gun and archery season from the late January to Feb. 2.

Even more, if any or all of this sounds confusing, that's because it is: The endless procession of hunters' comments is an indication of how deeply the proposed changes have cut.

Archery hunters have turned out in force to take exception to the Nov. 1 shift in their Area 6 opening day and to losing 29 days of their season.

Bayou State Bowhunters spokesman Russell Lantier said the perception among the archery hunters was that wildlife managers wouldn't consider a

move to a "bucks only" Oct. 1 season in Area 6, and that the only way to get more archery days was to come to the LWFC with a Feb. 28 close. That explains why the virtually all the bowhunters' response to the LWFC was for a Feb. 28 shift.

Thursday's meeting brought calls for the Oct. 1 "bucks only" season, and those were loud enough to call off a plan to move to a Feb. 28 close.

However, the LWFC voted in an Oct. 1 opening date for bowhunters on the Pass a Loutre Wildlife Management Area, which takes in 110,000 acres in Area 6. This change came when archery hunters using this WMA said they combine October prime-time, Mississippi River fishing area with bowhunting trips. They also told managers that foggy conditions that plague the river in February would prevent bowhunting trips.

Gun hunters in the swamps along the river between Baton Rouge and New Orleans and along Bayou Lafourche added they object to the Feb. 2 extension -- two weeks later than the 2001-02 season -- because bucks are shedding antlers by late January. Those objections brought a call from dozens of hunting clubs to establish a new hunting area, an Area 9, to separate them from Area 6 dates.

All that said, the biggest problem between last season's dates and the managers' reaction to the study is with the archery season, not modern firearms nor muzzleloader hunters.

When managers proposed the archery season's one-month shift, it appears they felt obliged to move the gun seasons back, too, so as to give the gun hunters the same number of days they had in recent seasons. That shift came despite most all Area 6 gun hunters are satisfied with seasons that opened the second Saturday in November.

From here, leaving the gun hunters' seasons like they were last season appears to be a good compromise, and giving archery hunters an Oct. 1 "bucks only" season is the only clear solution to this thorny problem.

[Top of page](#)

SITE INDEX

HOME:	About Us Archives Help Search Site Map Subscribe
NEWS:	AP Wire Elections Health news Legislature Photo Gallery Police Briefs Religion School News Schools Desegregation Science Smiley
SUBURBAN NEWS:	Acadiana Baker Zachary Felicianas Florida parishes River parishes Westside
WEATHER:	Current Weather
SPORTS:	ECHL hockey High school sports LSU sports Outdoors New Orleans Saints SEC FanaticZone Southern University Team Schedules

<u>PEOPLE:</u>	Obituaries Food Teen Stuff
<u>ENTERTAINMENT:</u>	Movies TV Listings Music Books Comics Horoscopes Crossword Wordsearch Software Reviews Travel Personals
<u>BUSINESS:</u>	Briefs Technobabble Motley Fool
<u>OPINION:</u>	Inside Report Joan McKinney Milford Fryer Our Views Perspective Political Horizons
<u>ADVERTISING:</u>	Advertise with Us ADvocate ADvantages Apartment Directory Classifieds Display (Graphical) Ads Employment Classifieds La Job Market Marketplace Real Estate Classifieds Wheels (Automotive) Section Yellow Pages
<u>SPECIAL SECTIONS:</u>	Millennium Vacation Weddings World Wide Wanderers Other Special Sections

Copyright © 1995-2002, The Advocate, Capital City Press, All Rights Reserved.
Comments about our site, write: comments@theadvocate.com
[Advertise with us](#)

For information about newspaper jobs @ The Advocate - [click here](#)



**Advertising from
The Advocate Newspaper**

Saturday Canevari said, "he shows us how to compete. He sets the tone. If he gives us his normal Mestepey-type effort, that could give us enough momentum to shot in the

See MESTEPEY, Page 2D

The Advocate, Friday, April 5, 2002

Advocate staff photo by Travis Spradling
LSU ace pitcher Lane Mestepey will start today's game at SEC rival Auburn. Mestepey is 5-2 with a 3.60 earned run average.

LWFC adds 6-point rule on area deer

By JOE MACALUSO
Advocate outdoors writer

Two hours of complaints about the proposed Area 6 deer hunting season effected no changes, but the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission agreed to add a 6-point rule for Area 6 deer hunters in Pointe Coupee, Iberville and West Baton Rouge parishes.

If ratified as part of the 2002-03 Resident Game Hunting Seasons package, the 6-point rule will mean hunters in those three parishes will be limited to taking bucks with six or more tines in their antlers.

The move at Thursday's commission meeting was sponsored by commission member Terry Denmon from Monroe and seconded by Lafayette's Bill Busbice. Chairman Tom Gattle and Lee Felterman also voted for the regulation to be included in the hunting seasons, which will be ratified at the commission's July 2 meeting. Thomas Kelly, Wayne Sagrera and Baton Rougean Dr. Jerry Stone voted against the rule.

"I want to make it clear that this (rule) is only for these three parishes and only on a three-year experimental basis," said Denmon, who added an exemption to allow young hunters to take spiked bucks in the three-parish area.

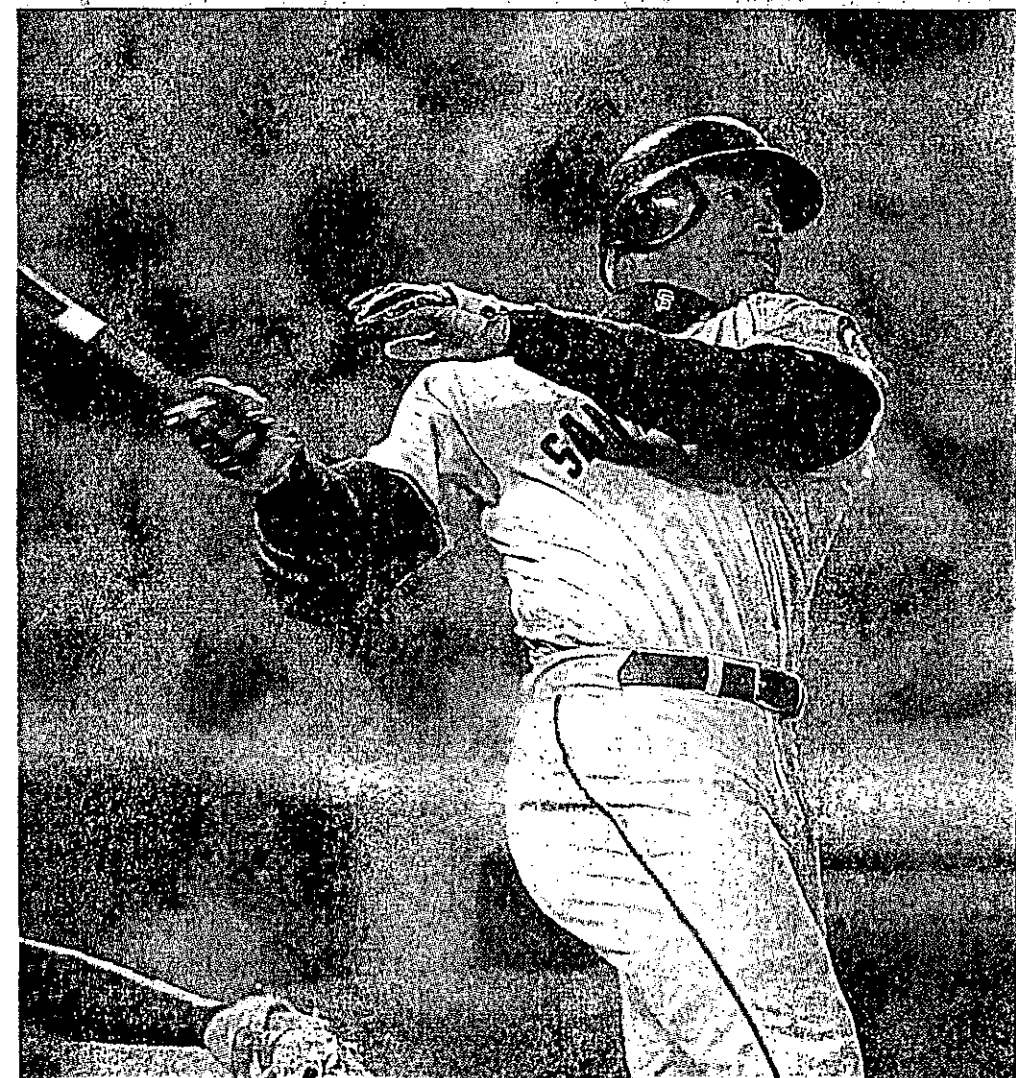
The inclusion of the experimental season is a victory for the South Louisiana Branch of the Quality Deer Management Association, which brought the item to the LWFC one year ago. The seven-man board voted not to include it in the 2001-02 hunting package.

Hunters who decried the new Area 6 season dates dominated the lengthy meeting.

In March, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries managers and biologists proposed a dramatic shift in the dates for archery, muzzleloader and modern firearms deer-hunting seasons for the area, which takes in parishes west, south and east of Baton Rouge, but not East Baton Rouge Parish.

Proposed were a Nov. 1-Feb. 2 archery season, a Dec. 9-20 muzzleloader-only period and modern firearms seasons of Nov. 23-Dec. 8/still-hunt only and a Dec. 21-Feb. 2 run for hunting with or without dogs. Those respective 2001-02 seasons ran Oct. 1-Jan. 31 (archery), two separate splits for the muzzleloader-only season, the last running through Jan. 28 and a modern-firearms season that ended Jan. 21.

See DEER, Page 8D



Associated Press photo

Barry Bonds hits a solo homer against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Wednesday. son home run record of 73 last season, is well ahead of that pace.

edible Bonds

n pace for another record season

Baseball roundups, results,
Page 4D

is hit-
e way
each-
rd 73
Two
of the
guys
ve."

It hasn't worked against him so far.
On Wednesday night, Bonds joined Hall of Famer Eddie Mathews as the only players in history to open a season with a pair of two-homer games. Mathews did it for the Milwaukee Braves in 1958.
Last year, the San Francisco star homered on opening day, but didn't hit his second homer until the Giants' ninth game,

triggering a streak where he connected in four straight games and seven of eight.

"He's amazing," Giants pitcher Kirk Rueter said. "Right now, it looks like every time he's up he's going to hit a home run or hit it hard."

"Watching him last year, I don't think anything surprises the guys," he said.

The 37-year-old San Francisco slugger set five big-league records last season with his 73 homers along with 177 walks,

See BONDS, Page 4D

league I football basketball

Friday, April 12
 Memphis at Bossier-Shreveport, if necessary

Saturday, April 13
 Bossier-Shreveport at Memphis, if necessary

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
 Austin vs. El Paso
 Today

Slin at El Paso

Saturday, April 8

Slin at El Paso

Wednesday, April 10

Paso at Austin

Friday, April 12

Paso at Austin

Saturday, April 13

Paso at Austin, if necessary

Monday, April 15

Slin at El Paso, if necessary

Wednesday, April 17

Paso at Austin, if necessary

SOCCER

MLS

Major League Soccer

Eastern Division

	W	L	TPts	GFGA
go.....	1	0	3	2-2
ibus.....	1	0	3	1-2
Stars.....	1	0	3	3-2
United.....	1	2	0	3-4
England.....	0	1	0	1-3

Western Division

	W	L	TPts	GFGA
do.....	2	0	1	7-4-1
geles.....	1	0	0	3-2-1
se.....	1	0	0	3-2-1
City.....	0	0	1	1-1-1
.....	0	1	0	0-2

E: Three points for victory, one for tie.

Wednesday's Game

radio 2: D.C. United 0

Saturday's Games

England at San Jose, 2 p.m.

Stars at Columbus, 6:30 p.m.

United at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

go at Los Angeles, 9 p.m.

Saturday, April 13

Jose at Kansas City 3 p.m.

Stars at Colorado 8 p.m.

s at Los Angeles 9 p.m.

Deer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1D

The proposed move was the result of a LDWF Deer Study survey that showed 91 percent of the fawns in the Atchafalaya Basin study area carried spots and were dependent on their mothers well into October.

"We cannot, in good conscious, recommend an Oct. 1 opening with the information we had in hand," Wildlife Division administrator Tom Prickett said Thursday.

Wildlife Division assistant administrator Jimmy Anthony said most comments received during statewide public hearings held in March and through the mail came from Area 6 archery hunters, who objected to losing nearly a month of their season. Since the early March proposals, Anthony said most of the archery hunters suggested moving the end of the proposed Area 6 archery season to Feb. 28.

Felterman made a motion to extend the archery season to Feb. 28, but, during discussion, as many as 12 hunters representing clubs in as many parishes said their archery hunters would like to have the same season dates as last year. The lone stipulation is that the Oct. 1-31

archery dates would be a bucks-only season.

Joey Rhodes from Plaquemines Parish said the deer there and in St. Bernard Parish have "an earlier rut than in the northern part of the area (6) and maybe some study needs to be done on the deer in our section."

Rhodes suggested that the commission create a new deer hunting area to account for the differences between swamp and coastal deer and deer in the study area.

Danny Bourque said he represented "15 swamp hunting clubs from the southeast parishes" and we do not like hunting into February because the bucks in our area, the swamps, are starting to shed their antlers.

Bourque added that bowhunters among the 15 clubs favored a bucks-only Oct. 1-Nov. 1 archery season, and added to Rhodes call for a new area. Bourque called it "Area 9."

Felterman withdrew his motion.

Ray Bordelon from the Avoyelles Wildlife Federation said fellow hunters objected to a two-day decrease in the muzzleloader season. He said they preferred the two-split

muzzleloader dates of the 2001-02 season.

Other hunters from river parishes objected to an archery season extension into February that could interfere with rabbit and squirrel hunters taking to the woods and fields after the end of the deer season. Rabbit and squirrel seasons run into February.

Extensive discussion also touched on a proposed ban on commercial waterfowl guiding operations on state-owned wildlife management areas.

In other action, the LWFC agreed to a Notices of Intent for a \$1 reduction (from \$4 to \$3) in the alligator tag fee through Sept. 2004 and a ban on gill and trammel nets and seines in Cypress Lake and Black Bayou Reservoir; approved a resolution declaring June 1-9 as Louisiana Fishing Week and approved June 8-9 as license-free recreational fishing days; and, set an Aug. 1 meeting date for that month.

A report from the Oyster Task Force on coastal restoration and the oyster industry was moved to the May 2 meeting.

KIP BERTMAN

ARCHITECT OF A BASEBALL DYNASTY



IN THE TOP 10!

The 2001 Associated Press Sports Editors contest ranked The Advocate's special section on Skip Bertman as one of the Top 10 in the nation.

The Bertman special section, which ran March 8, 2001, also won First Place from the Louisiana Sport Writers Association last year.

Mail the coupon below to get a limited edition poster replicating The Advocate's Skip Bertman section cover. It's a perfect complement to the newspaper's College World Series Championship collection.

Mail your poster order to The Advocate Posters, P.O. Box 588, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0588. Or save the cost of shipping and handling and buy your posters at The Advocate Marketing Department at 525 Lafayette St. or The Advocate's Production Plant at 6700 Bluebonnet Road in Baton Rouge.

COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Thursday, April 4, 2002
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife & Fisheries Building

		Attended	Absent
<u>6 p.m.</u>	<i>alligator</i>		
Y	Y Tom Gattle (Chairman)	<u>✓</u>	___
N	Y Jerry Stone	<u>✓</u>	___
Y	Y Bill Busbice	<u>✓</u>	___
N	Y Tom Kelly	<u>✓</u>	___
N	Y Wayne Sagrera	<u>✓</u>	___
Y	Y Terry Denmon	<u>✓</u>	___
Y	Y Lee Felterman	<u>✓</u>	___

Mr. Chairman:

There are 7 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.
Secretary Jenkins is also present.

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BATON ROUGE, LA

April 4, 2002

10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of March 7, 2002
3. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March - Keith LaCaze
4. Public Comments - 2002-03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules & Regulations
5. Notice of Intent - Suspension of Collection of Portion of Alligator Tag Fee - Phil Bowman
6. Fishing Week Resolution - Wayne Huston
7. Notice of Intent - Prohibit Gill Nets, Trammel Nets, and Fish Seines in Cypress Lake & Black Bayou Reservoir Located in Bossier Parish, Louisiana - Bennie Fontenot
8. Oyster Task Force Report on Coastal Restoration and the Oyster Industry - Mike Voisin, Oyster Task Force
9. Set August 2002 Meeting Date
10. Public Comments
11. Adjournment

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
April 4, 2002
10:00 AM

- ✓1. Roll Call
- ✓2. Approval of Minutes of March 7, 2002
- ✓3. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March - Keith LaCaze
- ✓4. Public Comments - 2002-03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules & Regulations
- ✓5. Notice of Intent - Suspension of Collection of Portion of Alligator Tag Fee - Phil Bowman
- ✓6. Fishing Week Resolution - Wayne Huston
- ✓7. Notice of Intent - Prohibit Gill Nets, Trammel Nets, and Fish Seines in Cypress Lake & Black Bayou Reservoir Located in Bossier Parish, Louisiana - Bennie Fontenot
- ✓8. Oyster Task Force Report on Coastal Restoration and the Oyster Industry - Mike Voisin, Oyster Task Force
- ✓9. Set August 2002 Meeting Date
- ✓10. Public Comments
11. Adjournment

Wayne - yes
Terry - yes

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

MARCH 2002

REGION 1:MINDEN
18 Agent positions

PARISHES: BIENVILLE, BOSSIER,
CADDO, CLAIBORNE,
WEBSTER

TOTAL CASES	82
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
14	Boating
19	Angling W/O A Resident License
2	Angling W/O A License – Non-Resident
1	Take Or Possess Over Limit Game Fish (Black Bass)
2	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
5	Hunting W/O A Resident License
4	Hunt From A Moving Vehicle
2	Hunt Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours
3	Hunt Rabbits Closed Season
1	Possession Of Rabbits Closed Season
3	Hunt W/O A Resident Big Game License
4	Hunt Or Take Deer Closed Season
2	Hunt Deer W/ Artificial Light
1	Hunt Deer From A Public Road
1	Hunt or Take Deer W/Illegal Weapon
1	Hunt Turkey W/O Resident Big Game License

3	Hunt Turkey W/O Turkey Stamp
1	Take Illegal Turkey Open Season
1	Hunt Turkey With Rifle
1	Possession Turkey W/Closed Season
2	Hunt Turkey Over Bait
5	Not Abiding By Rules & Regs On WMA
3	Littering
1	Discharge Firearm From Public Road

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 8	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
5	Boating
1	Angling W/O A Resident License
1	Hunt W/O A Resident License
1	Not Abiding By Rules & Regs On WMA

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
2 black bass; 1 deer; 1 rabbit; 1 410 cal shotgun; 1 Remington 30-06 rifle; 2 rod & reel combos; 1 Benelli shotgun; 1 Winchester shotgun; 1 hen turkey

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 1

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
14	Boating
00	Commercial Fishing
00	Federal Migratory
3	Littering
6	Miscellaneous
24	Recreational Fishing
35	State Hunting/Trapping
8	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

REGION 2: MONROE
20 Agent positions

**PARISHES: E. CARROLL, JACKSON,
 LINCOLN, MOREHOUSE
 QUACHITA, RICHLAND
 UNION, W. CARROLL**

TOTAL CASES	63
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
9	Angle Without A License
2	Fish Without Resident Pole License
4	Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
4	Possession of Marijuana
1	Angle Without Non-resident License
5	Not Abiding By Rules and Regulations on WMA
1	Hunt Without Unplugged Gun
2	Sell Fish Without Retain Seafood License
1	Sell Fish Without Wholesale/Retail License
8	Littering
1	Fail To Maintain Records (Trip tickets)
7	Hunt Turkey Over Bait
2	Hunt Turkey Without Turkey Stamp
1	Hunt Without Resident License
8	Boating
1	Hunt Without Resident Big Game License

1	Hunt Deer From Public Road
1	Hunt Deer Illegal Hours
1	Hunt From Moving Vehicle
1	Discharge Firearm From Public Road
2	Take Over Limit Turkey

WRITTEN WARNINGS: 4

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2	Boating
2	Not Abiding By Rules and Regulations on WMA

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
50 lbs. Buffalo Fish; 50 lbs. Catfish; 3- Turkey Beards; 2- Packages Turkey Meat; 2-Turkey Parts.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
8	Boating
4	Commercial Fishing
-0-	Federal Migratory
8	Littering
8	Miscellaneous
12	Recreational Fishing
23	State Hunting/Trapping
4	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
15	Public Assistance (Assisting Stranded motorists and boaters)

REGION 3:ALEXANDRIA**26 Agent positions**

**PARISHES:AVOYELLES, GRANT
NATCHITOCHES
RAPIDES, SABINE
VERNON, WINN**

TOTAL CASES	47
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
7	Boating
10	Angling W/O A License
4	Sell Or Buy Fish W/O Retail Seafood License
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
1	Angle W/O A Non-Resident License
1	Possession Buckshot Closed Deer Season
4	Hunt Deer Illegal Hours
4	Hunt From Moving Vehicle
3	Hunt Turkey Over Baited Area
1	Take Over Limit Of Turkey
1	Not Abiding by Rules And Regulations
9	Littering
1	Obtain License By Fraud

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 13	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
4	Not Abiding By Rules & Regs.
5	Angling W/O A License
2	Boating
2	Possess Undersize Gamefish (Black Bass)

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
3 shotguns, 1 spotlight, 3 bags of garbage, 2 paper bags, 1 plastic bag, 1 wrapper, 12 aluminum cans, 2 ammo belts, 1 fishing license, 3 turkeys.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 3

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
7	Boating
4	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
9	Littering
1	Miscellaneous
12	Recreational Fishing
14	State Hunting/Trapping
13	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

REGION 4:FERRIDAY
24 Agent positions

PARISHES: CALDWELL, CATAHOULA
CONCORDIA, FRANKLIN
LASALLE, MADISON, TENSAS

TOTAL CASES	50
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
8	Boating
12	angling/O Resident License
3	Angling W/O A Non-Resident License
6	Fish W/O Resident Pole License
2	Take Game Fish Illegally
2	Taking Over Limit Undersized Catfish
2	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License
2	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License
2	Use Illegal Mesh Gill Nets
1	Hunting W/O Resident License
1	Hunting W/O Resident Big Game License
1	Hunt Turkey Over Baited Area
4	Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA
1	Littering
2	Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries (Drug Related Items)
1	Flight From An Officer

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 3	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2	Hunt Turkey W/O Turkey Stamp
1	No Boat Registration In Possession

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
126 crappie; 27 buffalo; 5 catfish; 16' aluminum boat; 30 hp mariner motor; boat trailer.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
8	Boating
10	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
1	Littering
4	Miscellaneous
21	Recreational Fishing
6	State Hunting/Trapping
3	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
3	Public Assistance

REGION 5:LAKE CHARLES
23 Agent positions

PARISHES: BEAUREGARD, CALCASIEU
EVANGELINE, ALLEN,
CAMERON, ACADIA,
VERMILION, JEFF DAVIS

TOTAL CASES	144
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
38	Boating
48	Angling W/O A License
2	Allow Another To Use Recreational License
16	Angling W/O A Non. Res. License
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirements
8	Angling W/O A Saltwater License
4	Angling W/O Saltwater License Non. Res
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
2	Take Or Poss. U/S Black Drum (Rec)
1	Take Or Poss. O/L Blue Crabs
1	Obtain License Or Engage Activity During Revocation
2	Failure To Have Comm. Lic. In Poss.
1	Take Or Sell Comm. Fish Or Bait Species W/O Comm. Lic.
1	Take Comm. Fish W/O Comm. Gear Lic. (Trawl)
2	Sell &/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's Lic. (Res.)

2	Sell &/Or Buy Fish W/O Retail Seafood License
3	Failure To Maintain Records
1	Unlawful Taking of Wild Birds
1	Hntg. Ducks/Geese W/O Federal Stamp
1	Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
3	Hntg. Ducks Closed Season
1	Taking Or Poss. Of Other Non Game – No Season
1	Illegal Poss. Of Marijuana
1	Operate ATV On Public Road
1	Littering
1	DWI

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 0	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
0	

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
2 bags marijuana; 1 receipt for seafood sale; 1 wholesale/retail dealer license – expired; 3 seafood transport license – expired; 1 2002 commercial license; 1 recreational louisiana fishing license; 1 copy of texas driver's license; 1 copy of louisiana driver's license; 7 undersize black drum – rtw; 3 oversize blackdrum – rtw; 1 undersize reddrum – rtw; 1 crab – rtw, 1 dove – rope/pipe/trap; 1 duck; 1 seagull; 6 spent shells; 1 sling shot; 10 rods, 10 reels.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
38	Boating
11	Commercial Fishing
7	Federal Migratory
1	Littering
3	Miscellaneous
84	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
0	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

REGION 6:OPELOUSAS
24 Agent positions

PARISHES: IBERIA, IBERVILLE,
PT.COUPÉE,LAFAYETTE
ST.MARTIN,IBERIA
IBERVILLE,W.B.R.

TOTAL CASES	157
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
35	Boating
73	Angling W/O License
2	Operate ATV Vehicle On Public Road
7	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
15	Fish W/O Resident Pole License
1	Fail To Have Written Permission
1	Unlawfully Take Oysters Off Private Lease
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License
1	Allow Another To Use Recreational Fishing License
7	Angle W/O Non-Resident Basic License
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
1	Hunt Squirrel Closed Season
1	Contributing To The Delinquency Of A Juvenile
2	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirements

1	Take Or Possess Over Limit Black Drum
1	Violation Of Sanitary Code
1	Failure To Display Proper Numbers On Vessel
3	Littering
1	Fail To Maintain Records
1	Driving W/O Operator's License

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 12	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2	Boating
9	Angling W/O A Basic License
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirements

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
10 black bass, 7 catfish, 2 gaspergou, 1 buffalo, 7 rod and reels, 1 squirrel, 1 black drum, 100 sacks of oysters, 4 beer cans, 1 fishing license.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 6

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
35	Boating
6	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory

3	Littering
5	Miscellaneous
107	Recreational Fishing
1	State Hunting/Trapping
12	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

REGION 7:BATON ROUGE**22 Agent positions**

**PARISHES: ASCENSION, E.B. ROUGE,
E. FELICIANA, LIVINGSTON,
ST. HELENA, ST. TAMMANY,
TANGIPAHOA, WASHINGTON,
W. FELICIANA**

TOTAL CASES	147
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
62	Boating
40	Angling W/O Res. License
7	Angling W/O Non-Res. License
2	Angling W/O Res. SW License
5	Angling W/O Cane Pole License
3	Sell/Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail License
1	Set Crab Traps In Nav. Channels
1	Littering
2	Hunt W/O Basic License
2	Hunt W/O Big Game License
2	Hunt Turkey W/O Stamp
1	Possession of Buckshot In Closed Deer Gun Season
1	Hunt W/O W.M.A. Permit
12	Hunt Turkeys Over Bait
1	Hunt Squirrels Closed Season

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	No Commercial Gear License
3	Transport Seafood W/O Required License
1	Sell F.B.A. W/O License

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 9	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
5	Baiting
4	Angling W/O Res. License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
2 tom turkeys and 1 rods and reel.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 7

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
62	Boating
8	Commercial Fishing
1	Federal Migratory
1	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
54	Recreational Fishing
21	State Hunting/Trapping
9	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
1	Public Assistance

REGION 8:NEW ORLEANS
18 Agent positions

**PARISHES: PLAQUEMINES, ST. BERNARD,
 ORLEANS, JEFFERSON
 ST. CHARLES**

TOTAL CASES	188
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
64	Boating
36	Angling W/O A License Resident
8	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirement
4	Angling W/O Saltwater License
1	Take Or Possess Game Fish Illegally
1	Take Or Possess Overlimit Of Red Drum
6	Violate Commission Regs. Take/Possess Red Drum Federal Waters
6	Fail To Have Fish Intact
2	Take/Possess Undersized Red Drum
1	Take Or Possess Undersized Spotted Sea Trout
1	Take Or Possess Undersized Black Drum
1	Take Or Possess Overlimit Of Spotted Sea Trout
2	Take Or Possess Overlimit Of Black Drum
2	Take Or Possess Overlimit Of Black Drum
3	Take Or Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

1	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License
1	Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License
1	Leave Nets Unattended
1	Use Saltwater Net Illegally
1	Take Salt Water Commercial Fish With Net Closed Season
1	Blocking Passage Of Fish
2	Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings
4	Destroy Legal Crab Traps
1	Allow Another To Use Commercial License
1	Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Commercial Vessel License
1	Allow Unlicensed Fisherman Use Commercial Gear License
1	Failure To Mark/Tag Nets
2	Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms
3	Take Oysters From Unapproved Area
1	Unlawfully Take Oysters Off Of A Private Lease
1	Failure To Display Proper Number On Vessel
3	Hunting W/O Resident License
1	Possess Wild Birds W/O A License
6	Failure To Abide By Commission Rules
1	Hunting W/Unplugged Gun

2	Hunt Rabbits Closed Season
1	Hunt Or Take Deer Closed Season
1	Sell Reptiles Or Amphib. W/O Collectors License
2	Possessing F.B.S. W/O A License
1	Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA
1	Criminal Trespass
3	Littering
2	Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries
2	Possess Red Drum Illegally

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 30	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
3	Angling W/O A License
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirement
2	Take Or Possess Undersized Red Drum
4	Fail To Maintain Records
1	Failure To Pay Severance Tax
1	Failure To Fill Out Oyster Tags Correctly
1	Fail To Maintain Traceable Oyster Records
14	Boating
1	Violation Of SanitaryCode

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
<p>Returned to water....144 sacks of oysters , 1 box of crabs, 200 lizards, 4 black bass, Destroyed ...1 flounder, Donated ...31 red drum, 71 oyster sacks, 120 lbs. of crabs, 46 black drum, 10 flounder, 52 spotted sea trout, 1 catfish, 1 mullet, 27 fish fillets, 5 rabbits, 3 nutria, 1 hog, 5 sheepshead, 200 lizards, 1 deer, Hardware confiscated...52 oyster containers, 3 oyster harvest tags, 91 oyster tags, 15 oyster logs, 11 rod and reels, 2 vessels, 2 oyster dredges, 150 hp.engine, 4 crab traps, 3 commercial license, 3 beer cans, 4 ice chests, 1 gill net, 2 rifles.</p>	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
64	Boating
32	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
3	Littering
6	Miscellaneous
66	Recreational Fishing
17	State Hunting/Trapping
30	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
3	Public Assistance

REGION 9: SCHRIEVER

**PARISHES: ASSUMPTION,
ST. JAMES, ST. MARY
TERREBONNE, LAFOURCHE
JEFFERSON-GRAND ISLE
LOWER ST. MARTIN**

25 Agent positions

TOTAL CASES	279
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
101	Boating
79	Angling Without A License
6	Angling Without A Non-Resident License
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirement
17	Angling Without Saltwater License
1	Angling Without Saltwater License Non-Resident
3	Take O/L Black Drum Recreational
5	Fail To Have Saltwater Fish Intact
14	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
1	Take Undersized Red Drum
4	Take Undersized Black Drum
5	Commission Rules And Regulations (Possess Red Snapper Recreational Closed Season)
2	Take Game Fish Illegally By Hoop Nets
2	Take Commercial Fish Without A Commercial License
1	Commission Rules And Regulations (Take Red Snapper Commercially Without Federal Permit)
2	Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial Gear License (Hoop Nets)

1	Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial Gear License (Set Line)
3	Take Commercial Fish Without Vessel License
2	Buy Fish Without Non-Resident Wholesale/Retail License
1	Buy Fish Without Resident Wholesale/Retail License
1	Fail To Maintain Records
1	Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Vessel License
1	Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Commercial Gear License
1	Buy Commercial Fish From Unlicensed Fisherman
2	Fail To Comply With Stone Crab Requirements
4	Failure To Display Proper Number On Vessel
3	Failure To Have Written Permission
3	Unlawfully Take Oysters Off A Private Lease
1	Possession Of Untagged Oysters
1	Possession Of Buckshot During Closed Deer Season
1	Littering
2	Violate Interstate Commerce Regulations
2	Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA (Hunt Rabbit With Dogs)
2	Hunt WMA Without WMA Hunting Permit
2	Not Abiding Rules And Regulations Of WMA (ATV ON WMA)
1	Purchase And Public Possession Of Alcoholic Beverage By Person Under 21

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 70	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
32	Boating
11	Angling Without License
1	Angling Without Non-Resident License
2	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirements
23	Angling Without Saltwater License
1	Take Undersized Red Drum Recreational

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
71 lbs vermillion snapper, 26 lbs bar jack, 41 lbs almaco jack, 3 lbs hake, 517 lbs red snapper, 37 lbs red porgy, 16 white trout, 1 catfish, 15 bass, 200 lbs crab, 123 stone crabs, 84 black drum, 2 red drum, 4 ½ sacks oysters, 2 rabbits, 3 sheephead, 2 boats and motors (paper seizure), 1 hoop net, 3 rods and reels, 23 cans beer, 1 resident set line commercial gear license, 1 oyster dredge, 2 commercial receipts of purchase, 3 buckshot shells.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 9

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
101	Boating
27	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
1	Littering
9	Miscellaneous
140	Recreational Fishing

1	State Hunting/Trapping
70	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
11	Public Assistance

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE
3 Agent positions

COASTAL WATERS

TOTAL CASES	49
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
9	Boating
4	Angling W/O Basic License Non-Resident
1	Angling W/O A Saltwater License Non-Resident
2	Angling W/O A Basic License –Resident
2	Angling W/O A Saltwater License-Resident
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirement
1	Take Or Possess Undersized Red Drum
1	Littering
2	Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms
6	Unlawfully Take Oysters From Private Lease
4	Failure To Have Written Permission
4	Failure To Display Proper Number On Vessel
1	Fail To Maintain Traceable Oyster Records
3	Fail To Maintain Records
1	Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Commercial Vessel License
3	Take Oysters From Unapproved Area

1	Failure To Fill Out Oyster Tags Correctly
1	Chapter9-Failure To Fill Out Oyster Tags Correctly
2	Fail To Comply With Stone Crab Requirements

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 0	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
0	

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
123 stone crabs, and 112 sacks of oysters.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
9	Boating
28	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
1	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
11	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
0	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIONS UNIT
8 Agent positions

STATEWIDE

TOTAL CASES	35
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
6	Failure To Have Saltwater Fish Intact
5	Violate Commission Rules And Regs. Red Snapper Closed Season
1	Violate Commission Rules And Regs. Red Snapper No Federal Permit
1	Violate Commission Rules And Regs. Tuna-No Federal Permit
4	Buy/Sell Fish W/O A Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's License
1	Buy/Sell Fish W/O Without A Retail Seafood Dealer's License
5	Fail To Maintain Records
1	Transport W/O Required License
1	Buy Commercial Fish From Unlicensed Dealer
1	Fail To Report Commercial Fisheries Data
1	Fail To Pay Severance Tax
1	Fail To Mark Containerized Oysters
2	Buy/Sell For Resale Untagged Containers Of Oysters
1	Fail To Maintain Traceable Oyster Records
4	Violation Of Sanitary Code-Chapter 9

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 0	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
----------------	--------------------------------

0	
----------	--

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
<p>29.2 lbs. of red snapper destroyed, 15 headless white trout destroyed, 6-pint bags of oysters, 7 ½ gals. Of oysters destroyed, 52 trays of oysters destroyed, 71 sacks of oysters destroyed.</p> <p>487 lbs. of red snapper , 71 lbs. of vermilion snapper, 41 lbs. of almaco jack, 37 lbs. of red porgy, 26 lbs. of barjack and 3 lbs. of hake all sold for \$1,708.60.</p>

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Boating
24	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
0	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
0	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

S.W.E.P.
8 Agent positions

COASTAL WATERS

TOTAL CASES	20
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2	Boating
6	Angling W/O A Basic License
1	Angling W/O A Non-Resident License
3	Fail To Display Proper Numbers On Vessel
2	Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms
6	Commission Rules/Regs.-Take/Possess. Red Drum Fed. Waters

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 4	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Angle W/O Basic License
1	No Boat Registration In Possession
2	Fail To Comply W/Visual Distress Signals

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
7 rod and reels, 13 red drum and 2 sacks of oysters.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR S.W.E.P.

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
2	Boating
11	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
7	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
4	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

**NOTE: 89 RUNNING HOURS
130 BOATS CHECKED**

REFUGE PATROL
8 Agent positions

MARSH ISLAND,
ROCKEFELLER, STATE
WILDLIFE

TOTAL CASES	54
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
21	Boating
13	Angling W/O A Basic License
4	Trawling In State Waters Closed Season Outside Waters
4	Use Trawl Exceeding 130' Of Cork Line and 165' leadline (offshore La. Waters)
2	Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum
8	Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA
1	Take Or Possess Undersize Red Drum
1	Violation Of Sanitary Code-Chapter 9

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 4	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
3	Improper Or No Fire Extinguisher
1	Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
7 black drum donated, 114 lbs. of shrimp sold for \$125.40, 4 shrimp trawls, 100 sacks of oysters returned-to-water, 1 red drum destroyed, 1 gallon whiskey, 1 marijuana cigarette, 55 -.22 cal. Bullets and 1 .22 rifle.	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REFUGE PATROL

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
21	Boating
9	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
8	Miscellaneous
16	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
4	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
4	Public Assistance

TOTAL CASES **-1315**

NOTE: WRITTEN WARNINGS =157

ENFORCEMENT AVIATION REPORT
MARCH, 2002

185-Amph. - 61092
Hrs. - 36.6

185-Float - 9667Q
Hrs. - 43.5

210 - 9467Y
Hrs. - 3.0

Enforcement Hours - 72.5

Other Divisions - 10.6

Total Plane Use - 83.1

Cases Made In Conjunction With Aircraft Use Resulted In Citations Issued For:

2-Take Or Possess Game Fish Illegally

2-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish Without Commercial Fishing License

2-Allow Another To Use Commercial License

6-Total

Confiscations: 15 Crappie and 30 Black Drum Returned To Water

MONTHLY REPORT
ENFORCEMENT DIVISION - HUNTER EDUCATION SECTION
DATE March 2002

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Total
Total Hunter Education Courses Taught Statewide									17
Total Students Certified Statewide in Hunter Education									718
Number Hunter Education Courses Taught by Volunteers	0	0	3	5	1	2	0	2	13
Number Hunter Education Courses Taught by Coordinators	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	4
Number Hunter Education Courses Assisted by Coordinator	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4
Number Hunter Education Students Certified by Region	0	16	285	98	24 34	227	0	58	718
Bowhunter Education Courses Taught by Region	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number Bowhunter Education Students Certified by Region	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number Hunter Education Instructors Courses	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Number Hunter Education Instructors Certified	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	27

LaCaze, B "Keith"

From: ashley fisher [fisher@krocket.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2002 9:41 PM
To: Lacaze_BK@wif.state.la.us
Subject: Area 6 - Proposed Changes in Archery Season

Major Lacaze,

Would you please make sure that this is forwarded to the Commission for their consideration? First, I want to give you a profile of what type of deer hunter I am. I am 50 years old, and I have been an archery hunter for 32 years. I do not belong to a hunting club, and I do very little deer hunting with a firearm. I hunt mainly on two small private tracks in St. Landry parish, Thistlewaite WMA, and recently Pomme de Terre WMA. I have read the study on the breeding data from Area 6 and feel it has some merit. Basically, it says that breeding/fawning takes place one month later in Area 6. Yet, the proposed seasons shorten the archery season by 29 days, rather than just postpone the entire season one month. Some of the "new" hunters bow hunt only to add either sex days to their season, and would exchange a few days of bow hunting any day, for more either sex firearms opportunities. I want to speak for those of us who bow hunt for the pleasure of it, and spend many hours on stand observing deer behavior from a distance and not just shooting deer. If you must open the archery season November 1, please allow us to archery hunt through February. The same biologists that proposed the season changes agree that bow hunting deer in February in Area 6 will do no harm, and is no different than bow hunting deer in January in other areas of the state.

I attended the public hearing in Alexandria on March 19, and I was disappointed that so few hunters were there to participate. I want to thank Major Lacaze for allowing me to use this means to convey my views to the Commission on this very important issue.

Thank You Again,

Sidney Fisher

Hawkins, Susan

From: Ferguson, Brad L (Baroid Drilling Fluids) [FergusBL@bp.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2002 7:07 PM
To: 'Hawkins_SC@wlf.state.la.us'
Subject: Delayin Archery season in Area 6

Dear Mrs. Hawkins,

I am writing to your commission in response to Mr. Dave Morelands proposal to delay archery season in area 6. I am a bowhunter in area 6 and I am concerned that I may loss some of my oppurtunities to enjoy the sport of hunting. The proposal states that archery season will be delayed becuae the deer in area 6 have a late rut. There is no denying the deer in our area have a late rut, but nobody has made a connection between archery hunting in October and late rutting deer. The department gives advice for their DMAP members in flood prone areas like area 6 (which is why the deer rut late, according to Mr. Moreland). Some of their suggestions are, 1) Do not reduce doe harvest quotas, 2) Harvest doe early, 3) Harvest doe regardless of age. With management advice such as this from the Wildlife Department on how to manage an area such as area 6, on what grounds do they base their intention to delay the archery season. I would ask that your commission ask for sound research and evidence that there is a need for this proposal and what goal it will accomplish before you decide to approve it. Thank you, Gail McDavid Jr.

Hawkins, Susan

From: Kevin Mathews [Kevin.Mathews@Distran.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2002 2:58 PM
To: 'Hawkins_SC@wlf.state.la.us'
Subject: Camp Beauregard

I have hunted in Louisiana all my life. I recently started Camp Beauregard, mainly with bow and arrow. During the past few years, I have had the opportunity to take 2 deer with a bow. However, the deer herd is becoming smaller each year. I am not alone when I say that the 9 doe days with a muzzleloader are taking entirely too many deer. The herd is becoming smaller every year. Camp Beauregard has the potential to be a true "sportsman's paradise" but it will not happen unless changes are made while there are still some deer in the woods. If this area, which is very small, would be a bow-only area, the herd would be allowed to repopulate. Bow hunters would actually look to each new season optimistically. I, and other hunters, have contacted the local DWF representative in Tioga to discuss this. We were not even given a chance to share our point of view. It is widely believed that the 9 doe days are continued to sell muzzleloader licenses. That is not wildlife conservation, that is business. Once the deer are all killed out, no one will be buying the licenses anyway.

Please help me to return Camp Beauregard to the hunting paradise that it was several years ago.

Thank you.

3/21/02

HLS 02A-431

ORIGINAL

First Extraordinary Session, 2002

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9

AUTHOR'S COPY

BY REPRESENTATIVE DOWNER

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES CMN: Requests the Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission not to reduce certain fees without consent of the Louisiana
Fur and Alligator Advisory Council

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission not to reduce any
fees that fund the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund without approval
of the Louisiana Fur and Alligator Advisory Council.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana alligator industry is a vital aspect of
Louisiana's economic base with an economic impact of fifty-four million
dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, worldwide markets and prices have
demonstrated steady increases for the wild-produced alligator skins and parts;
and recognizing the value to the state of the alligator farming industry, the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has provided the impetus for
inception and development of the total alligator conservation program; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives recognizes the many
beneficial influences that the Louisiana alligator program has had on
crocodilian conservation worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries further
recognizes the need to educate the public concerning renewable natural

HLS 02A-431

ORIGINAL

1 resource management and to market the products from this very controlled
2 harvest program; and

3 WHEREAS, recognizing the need to staff with adequate personnel and
4 to fund this program, the Louisiana Legislature established a four-dollar tag
5 fee and label fees for each raw alligator skin to be shipped, used for taxidermy,
6 or tanned or hatchlings shipped out of the state; and

7 WHEREAS, the revenue collected from these fees is placed in the
8 Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund and is intended to help defray the cost of
9 alligator programs within the fur and refuge division of the Louisiana
10 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as outlined in R.S. 56:279; and

11 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature created the Fur and Alligator
12 Advisory Council to be responsible for reviewing and approving recommended
13 procedures and programs funded by the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund
14 and to ensure that any monies from the fund are expended for the specific
15 goals of the council, and the legislature provided that the Louisiana Fur and
16 Alligator Advisory Council has final and complete authority over the
17 expenditures of the funds.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives
19 of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Wildlife and
20 Fisheries Commission not to reduce any fees that fund the Louisiana Alligator
21 Resource Fund without approval of the Louisiana Fur and Alligator Advisory
22 Council.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be
24 transmitted to the chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the
25 chairman of the Louisiana Fur and Alligator Advisory Council.

HLS 02A-431

ORIGINAL

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

Downer

HR No.

Requests the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission not to reduce any fees that fund the Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund without approval of the Louisiana Fur and Alligator Advisory Council.

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby advertises its intent to suspend a portion of the alligator tag fee.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 7. Alligators

§701. Alligator Regulations

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby establish regulations governing the harvest of wild populations of alligators and alligator eggs, raising and propagation of farmed alligators, tanning of skins and regulations governing the selling of hides, alligator parts and farm raised alligators. The administrative responsibility for these alligator programs shall rest with the Department Secretary; the Assistant Secretary, Office of Wildlife; and the Fur and Refuge Division.

1. - 3. ***

4. Licenses, Permits and Fees

a. The licenses and fees required for activities authorized by these regulations are as prescribed under provisions of Title 56, or as prescribed in these regulations, and are:

* * *

xi. \$4 for each alligator hide tag; provided however, that this Commission does hereby suspend the collection of \$1 of the \$4 tag fee. This suspension shall commence in September 2002 and continue for a period of 2 years or until such time this Commission takes further action, whichever occurs first.

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115, R.S. 56:259, R.S. 56:262, R.S. 56:263 and R.S. 56:280.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:1070 (December 1990), amended LR 17:892 (September 1991), LR 19:215 (February 1993), LR 20:321 (March 1994), LR 26:1492 (July 2000), LR 28: . .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to: Brandt Savoie, Fur & Refuge Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to Wednesday, July 3, 2002.

In accordance with Act#1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

WHEREAS, sportfishing provides recreation for more than sixty million Americans of all ages, giving families a healthy, shared outdoor activity, and

WHEREAS, sportfishing, through the payment of millions of dollars annually for licenses, taxes and fees, has provided the funding for federal and state programs that contributes significantly to the preservation and protection of our natural environment, and

WHEREAS, the estimated 898,000 plus sportfishermen in Louisiana spend in excess of one billion dollars annually, and

WHEREAS, Act 301 of the 1987 Louisiana Legislature authorizes the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to declare no more than two free recreational fishing days each year, and

WHEREAS, Free Fishing Days during National Fishing Week would provide an excellent opportunity to introduce additional individuals to the wholesome outdoor activity of fishing.

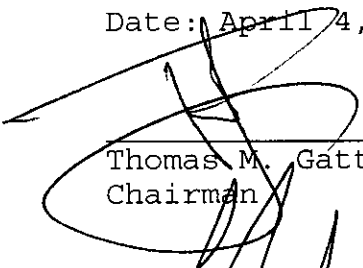
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we the undersigned members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission do hereby officially declare the week of June 1-9, 2002 as

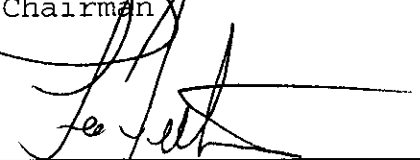
FISHING WEEK

in the State of Louisiana, and

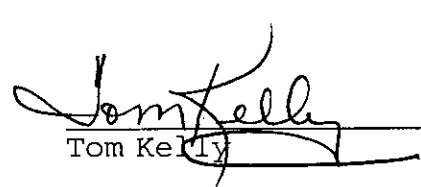
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that June 8 & 9, 2002 are hereby declared free recreational fishing days, during which residents and non-residents may exercise the privileges of a licensed recreational fisherman without purchase of any otherwise necessary recreational fishing license.


Date: April 4, 2002

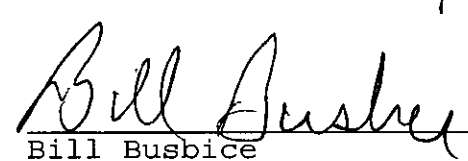

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

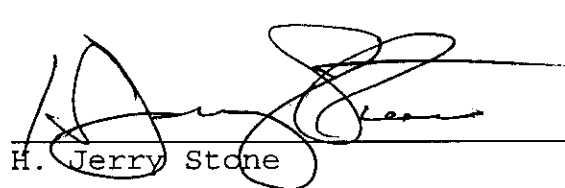

Lee Felterman


Wayne Sagrera


Tom Kelly


Terry Denmon
Vice-Chairman


Bill Busbice


H. Jerry Stone


James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

- WHEREAS,** sportfishing provides recreation for more than sixty million Americans of all ages, giving families a healthy, shared outdoor activity, and
- WHEREAS,** sportfishing, through the payment of millions of dollars annually for licenses, taxes and fees, has provided the funding for federal and state programs that contributes significantly to the preservation and protection of our natural environment, and
- WHEREAS,** the estimated 898,000 plus sportfishermen in Louisiana spend in excess of one billion dollars annually, and
- WHEREAS,** Act 301 of the 1987 Louisiana Legislature authorizes the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to declare no more than two free recreational fishing days each year, and
- WHEREAS,** Free Fishing Days during National Fishing Week would provide an excellent opportunity to introduce additional individuals to the wholesome outdoor activity of fishing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we the undersigned members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission do hereby officially declare the week of June 1-9, 2002 as

FISHING WEEK

in the State of Louisiana, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that June 8 & 9, 2002 are hereby declared free recreational fishing days, during which residents and non-residents may exercise the privileges of a licensed recreational fisherman without purchase of any otherwise necessary recreational fishing license.

Date: April 4, 2002

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Terry Denmon
Vice-Chairman

Lee Felterman

Bill Busbice

Wayne Sagrera

H. Jerry Stone

Tom Kelly

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to establish the following rule on commercial netting in Cypress Lake and Black Bayou Reservoir in Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

§195. Cypress Lake and Black Bayou Reservoir Netting Prohibition

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby prohibits the use of gill nets, trammel nets, and fish seines in Cypress Lake and Black Bayou Reservoir, Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

Effective with this prohibition, no person shall possess any gill net, trammel net or fish seine while on the waters of Cypress Lake or Black Bayou Reservoir. In addition, no person shall take, possess or sell any fish, which was taken with a gill net, trammel net or fish seine from Cypress Lake or Black Bayou Reservoir.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:22.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed

rule to Bennie Fontenot, Administrator, Inland Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 3, 2002.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

In accordance with Act#1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S.49:972(B).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

**CYPRESS BLACK BAYOU RECREATION
& WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

135 Cypress Park Dr.
Baton, LA 71006
318-965-2289

**Executive Director
Mike Kling**

Board of Commissioners
James Huckabay
Ernest Covington
Ray Urban
Richard Christian
Wesley Burdine

March 28, 2002

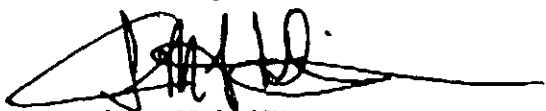
Mr. Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
P.O. Box 9800
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898

Mr. Gattle,

The Cypress Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District is requesting the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to prohibit the use of gill nets, trammel nets, and fish seines for both Recreational and Commercial fishing on Cypress and Black Bayou Reservoirs. We are concerned about the possible impact on game fish and safety of watercraft on the Reservoirs.

Your consideration and hopefully the enforcement of this area of concern is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



John M. L. Kling
Executive Director
Cypress Black Bayou Recreation
and Water Conservation District

Cypress – Black Bayou Netting Prohibition

Both lakes contain good populations of largemouth bass, crappie, bream and channel catfish.

Channel catfish are sought after by commercial fishermen using hoop nets and slat traps.

No viable commercial fishery present which fishermen would use entanglement type gear to harvest.

Entanglement type gear such as gill nets may be detrimental to the largemouth bass and crappie present in these reservoirs. The netting data shows large numbers of bass and crappie were caught during standardized sampling with gill nets.

Florida bass are being stocked in both reservoirs with the goal of providing anglers a chance to catch a trophy bass. Larger bass are particularly susceptible to being caught in gill nets.

Black Bayou Reservoir is enrolled in the Quality Lake Program (14" – 17" slot limit on black bass), and has been heavily stocked with Florida Bass. The largemouth bass population has responded well to these fisheries management practices. Cypress Lake also supports a good largemouth bass population, and Florida Bass have recently been introduced in the reservoir. Removing the entanglement gear will help ensure quality recreational fisheries in these reservoirs.

Gill Netting Effort

Black Bayou Reservoir and Cypress Lake

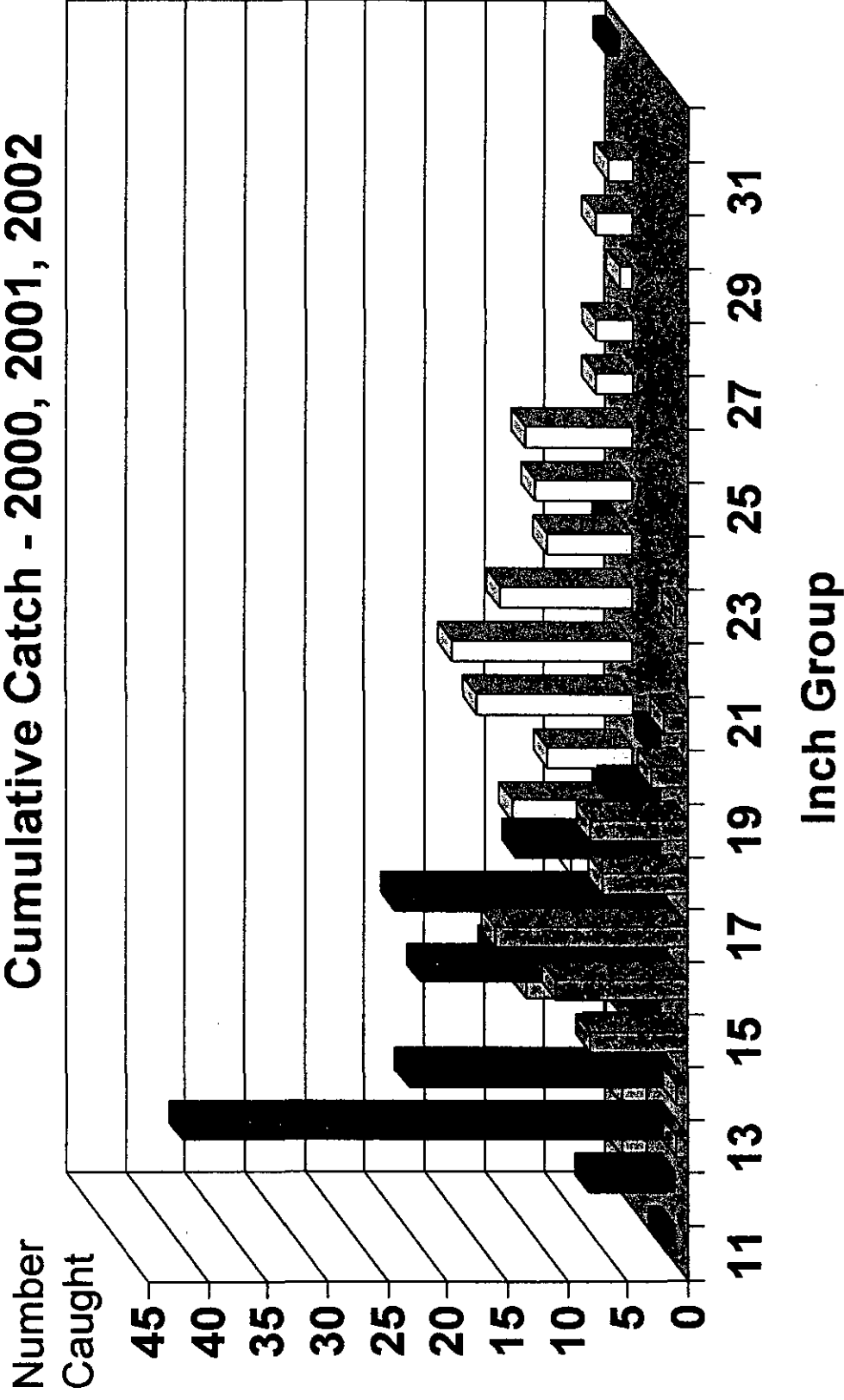
Standardized gill net sampling calls for each station to be sampled with 400 yards of tied down monofilament gill nets. A net set consists of 100 yards each of four different mesh sizes 2 ½", 3", 3 ½", and 4". Nets are set in the evening prior to sunset and picked up as soon as possible after sunrise the following morning. The number of stations to be sampled is determined by the surface area of the impoundment.

Black Bayou Reservoir encompasses 750 surface acres and standardized sampling guidelines call for net sets to be made at 3 different stations. Cypress Lake is 2150 surface acres and standardized sampling guidelines call for net sets at 6 different stations.

Actual sampling efforts on Black Bayou Reservoir exceeded the standardized sampling guidelines due to concern over the commercial fishing activity in a quality lake. The efforts made during the 3 year period shown on the chart represent 400 yards of webbing fished at 4 stations for 4 nights and 1 station for 3 nights. The chart shows the total catch of 6000 yards of gill nets.

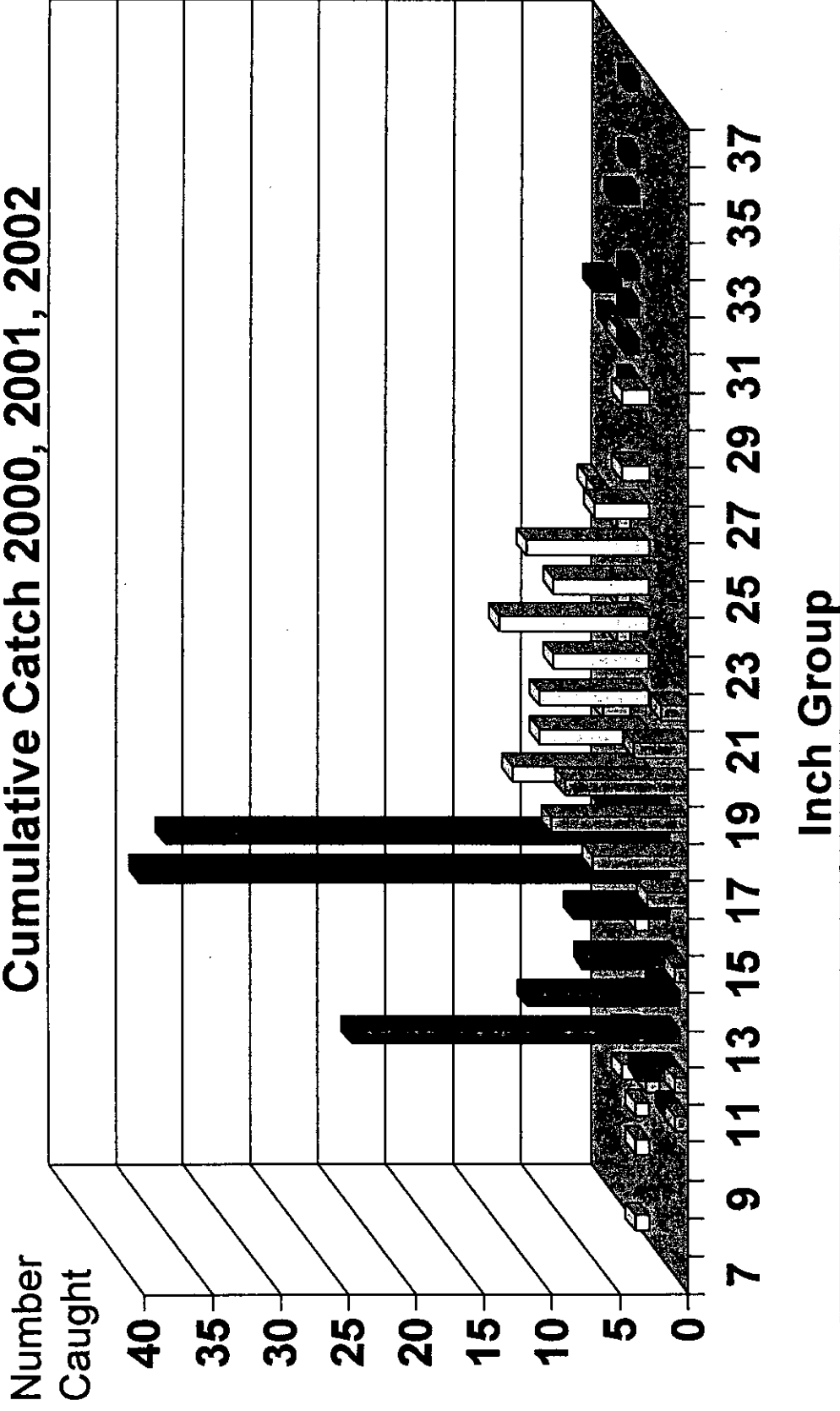
The total sampling effort on Cypress Lake during this period was 400 yards of gill nets fished at 4 different stations for 3 nights and 2 stations for 2 nights. The chart shows the cumulative catch of 6400 yards of gill nets.

Black Bayou Reservoir - Gill Net Samples Cumulative Catch - 2000, 2001, 2002



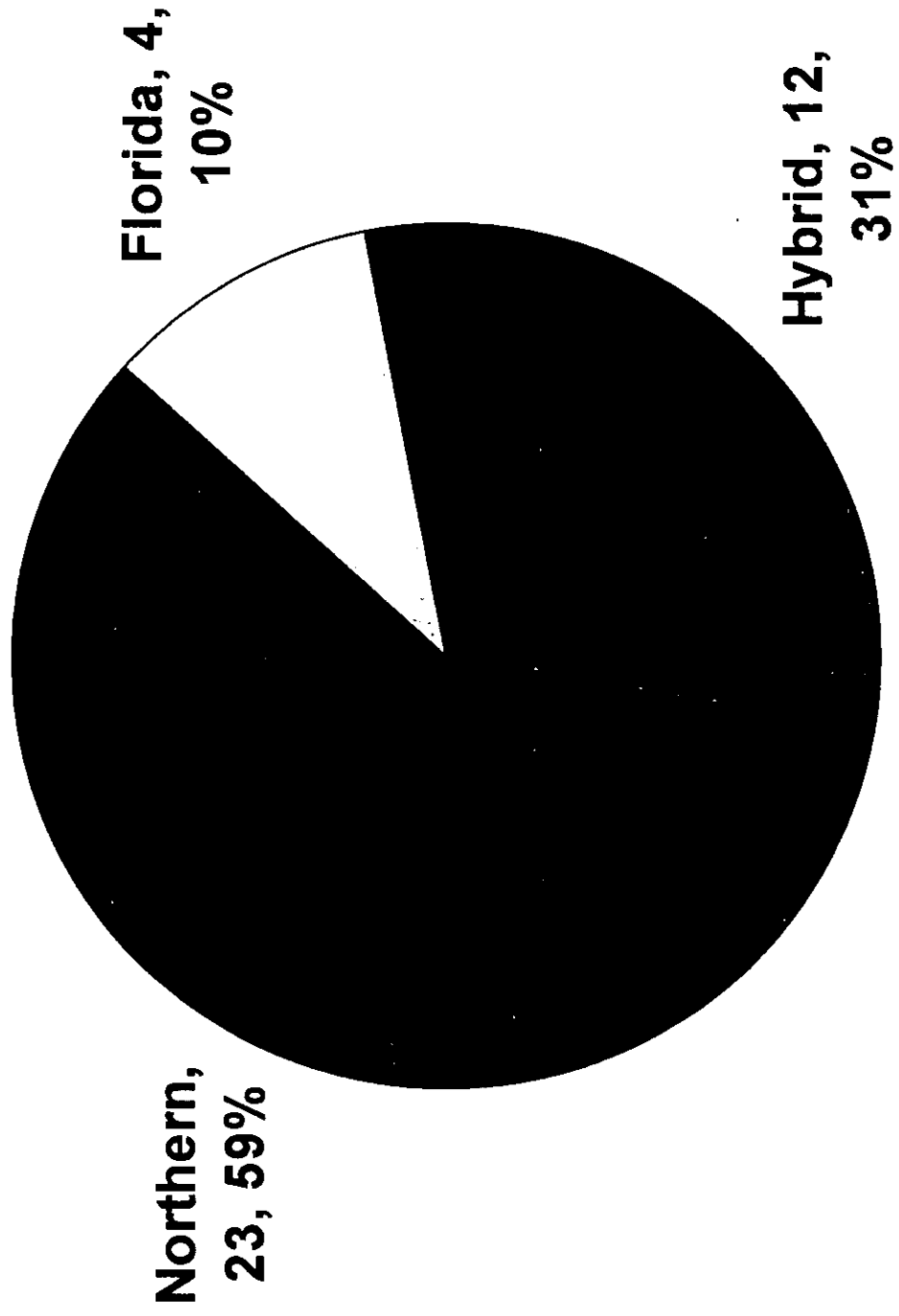
- Largemouth Bass
- Bullheads
- Crappie
- Channel Catfish
- Spotted Sucker
- Spotted Gar

Cypress Lake - Gill Net Samples Cumulative Catch 2000, 2001, 2002

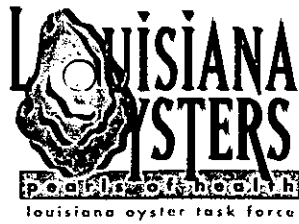


- Largemouth Bass
- Bullheads
- Blue Catfish
- Freshwater Drum
- Crappie
- Channel Catfish
- Carp
- Spotted Sucker
- Spotted Gar
- Bowfin

Black Bayou Reservoir
Largemouth Bass – Genetic Analysis



Fall Samples 2001



INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING BOOK:

**ISSUES RELATIVE TO LOUISIANA'S
OYSTER INDUSTRY**

**PREPARED BY THE
LOUISIANA OYSTER TASK FORCE**

MARCH 31, 2002

The Louisiana Oyster Task Force was created by the Louisiana State Legislature in 1988 as the marketing and advocacy arm of the state's oyster industry. Members of the Task Force are appointed by industry associations and state regulatory agencies.

1600 Canal Street, Suite 210

New Orleans, LA 70112

1.800.222.4017



Introduction

The following briefing book has been prepared by the Louisiana Oyster Task Force to assist you in understanding various issues confronting Louisiana's oyster industry and the more than ten thousand families that depend upon the industry for their livelihood.

Since the 1840's commercial oyster farming and harvesting has been an important part of Louisiana's economy, culture and heritage. Our "pearls of good health and good taste" are relished around the world and here at home. Yet many people do not fully understand how the industry operates, how the state benefits from the investment and hard work of oystering families, or as importantly, the many challenges of the past and the issues confronting the industry today. These issues include environmental battles, the impact of coastal erosion, increased competition, and efforts to change the state's leasing policies without understanding why those policies exist in the first place.

This briefing book is presented in an effort to increase your understanding many of these issues and more, and to set the record straight on many of the more controversial issues which are now before us all.

We hope that you find these materials interesting and informative and urge you to contact members of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force at 504/568-5693 if you have questions.

Louisiana Oyster Task Force

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Introduction
Page 1-3	A brief history of the oyster industry in Louisiana
Page 4	Economic impact of oyster farming, harvesting and processing on Louisiana
Page 5-6	The high cost of farming oysters on private leases
Page 7	Louisiana's oyster industry and its place in US oyster production
Page 8	Louisiana's oyster industry: how it protects our fragile environment
Page 9-11	Industry participation in the fight against coastal erosion
Page 12-13	A brief overview of Louisiana's oyster lease policies
Page 14	The case for maintaining the current lease system
Page 15-16	Risks to the industry and the families that depend on it

A Brief History of Louisiana's Oyster Industry

For centuries, oysters and other molluscan shellfish have been a central part of people's diets. From China to France, people have enjoyed any of the many oysters that are naturally found in warm and cold water environments around the globe.

The world's love affair with Louisiana oysters dates to the earliest days of French and Spanish exploration along the Louisiana coast. Consequently, oysters have their own unique place in Louisiana's history and culture. As long ago as 1734, French writers such as Antoine Le Page Du Pratz were praising the taste and abundance of Louisiana oysters. In fact, oyster gumbo was a primary feature of General Andrew Jackson's victory dinner following his defeat of the British near New Orleans in 1815.

Commercial growth meets a growing demand

Commercial harvesting of oysters began in earnest in the 1840's and 1850's as settlers in south Louisiana began to more and more harvest the bounty of the land to feed not only themselves but the growing communities of the coast. As nature would have it, oysters from certain water bodies were found to have a better taste and texture than others, creating an increasing demand for the best product which soon outstripped its supply. To compensate and to meet increased demand, oystermen began to harvest smaller oysters from less desirable waters and relocated them to their private leases.

Legislation to create both public and private oyster grounds served to facilitate more rapid growth in the commercial industry than ever before, with private lease production increasing dramatically. According to respected authors Roberts, Pawlyk, Dugas and Perret, the development of private lease acreage is the primary factor in the industry's success today.

As early as 1860, oysters were planted and cultivated in Bayou Cook by Luke Jurisich to grow fatter and saltier and more to the consumers' tastes. In 1885, Louis Esponger began the first large scale commercial plantings took place in Whale Bay, located on the east side of the Mississippi River. Esponger used Whale Bay to develop his own source of seed oysters as well as grow-out oysters to market size. Due to coastal erosion, Whale Bay no longer exists.

Over time, recognizing that oyster farming had the increasing ability to contribute to the state's economic vitality, government at various levels began to act in concert with oyster harvesters, putting in place laws and regulations which protected the industry and encouraged growth and stabilization of the industry.

In 1886, the Louisiana legislature passed Act 206 which gave Parish Police Juries “absolute control” to regulate the oyster industry, that included the ability to lease waterbottoms within their Parish to local oyster farmers.

In 1892, Act 110 established the Office of Oyster Inspector which was given the responsibility to enforce all the oyster laws of the state.

In 1902, the Louisiana legislature created the Oyster Commission. Specifically the Commission was given the following authority:

- 1) ...set the limits of riparian rights at the low water mark,
- 2) ...establish common fishing grounds in all waters under the jurisdiction of the state but with certain restrictions on the utilization by all Louisiana residents,
- 3) ...declared that stream beds bordering the Gulf of Mexico could not be sold,
- 4) ...prohibited the shipment of Louisiana oysters to out of state canning companies,
- 5) ...determined the limits of natural beds that were not subject to private leasing,
- 6) ...provided for measures to enlarge and care for the natural oyster beds,
- 7) ...enforced private property rights of owners of leased oyster beds, and
- 8) ...provided means for settling disputes between leases over legal boundaries of bedding grounds.

The effect of this law was an almost immediate expansion of the oyster industry largely as a result of the protection of private property, (i.e. oysters on leased grounds), afforded by the oyster commission and its police force. (Times-Picayune, 1920). The Oyster Commission was the predecessor agency to the current Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Sounding the alarm about coastal erosion

Beginning in the 1940's, oyster farmers began to experience high mortality rates on many of their beds. Extensive government, private industry and academic research was undertaken to determine the causes of increased mortality rates which identified increased saltwater intrusion from coastal erosion as the primary perpetrator of the damage. This damaging fact helped make oyster farmers among the very earliest champions of fighting coastal erosion.

New strategies meet new challenges

At the same time however, oyster farmers began to explore new techniques for protecting both their oysters and their increasingly expensive business investments. These techniques included “diversifying the location of their leases by searching for good potential oyster growing grounds in lower, mid and upper bay areas as well as expanding in east and west directions to meet the challenges of continually changing ecological conditions.

“It also meant trying to project ahead weather cycles for anticipated wet and dry years” which can easily impact oyster production in certain areas. Therefore, oyster farming had to change essentially from the small, intensely cultivated leases to larger leases in more diversified locations.

Today's state oyster industry is the most prolific and profitable of any in the country, producing more jobs, income and state tax dollars than any other state. Louisiana continues to lead the nation in technological development as well, in the areas of cultch creation, seeding, and processing to ensure the safest, best tasting oyster anywhere. Moreover, successful oyster farming, primarily in privately held leases, has helped to further develop jobs in area processing plants, further improving the economic vitality of our state.

The state of Louisiana is a principal beneficiary of the industry's success in many ways including:

• Industry jobs (fulltime)	3100
• Industry jobs (part time)	6700
• Dockside value of landings	\$30,994,392*
• Total economic impact on LA	\$266,347,104*
• State income tax revenues	\$2,032,649*
• Sales taxes paid	\$8,467,034*
• Income	\$44,185,583*
• Retail sales	\$210,274,030*

*based on 1998 statistics provide by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Economic Impact of the Oyster Industry in Louisiana

Louisiana's culture and heritage is richly tied to the coast and to the men and women who have long made their livings and supported their families through the farming and processing of our "pearls of good health and good taste".

Importantly, however, Louisiana's oyster industry also plays a powerful role in sustaining the state's economy by providing jobs, payrolls and employee benefits, taxes and fees and sales revenues which make much of the coastal economy tick.

Parishes such as Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Mary, Jefferson, St. Charles, Iberia and Vermilion are the parishes which receive the greatest economic benefit from private leasing in this stable and vital industry.

Overall, consider these important statistics:

- Jobs directly attributable to the industry: 3100
- Jobs in related fields: 6700
- State tax revenues (2001)
(income and sales taxes only) \$10,500,000
- Total economic impact on Louisiana \$266,347,104

Nationwide, no other state receives greater economic benefit from its shellfish industry that does Louisiana.

The High Cost of Farming Oysters On Private Leases

While oyster farming continues to be a predominately family business, it is increasingly a business faced with high costs and high risks. And as crop insurance is unavailable for oyster farmers, these man and women carry an added burden and risk conventional land crop farmers do not bear.

Because it takes years to make an oyster reef productive, costs associated with private lease oyster farming are very high and include many expenditures most small business people do not incur.

Following are representative costs incurred by an average Louisiana oyster farmer just to get his or her product to dockside for possible re-sale to a distributor or processor. All costs below are paid by the private lease holder.

Paid to state of Louisiana:

- lease application fee
- lease acreage survey costs
- lease rental costs
- severance taxes
- state income taxes
- vessel license
- gear license
- commercial fishing license
- harvester's license
- wholesale / retail license
- transport license
- oyster tags

Other private costs:

- lease posting costs
- reef building costs—cultch, seeding
- cultivation and maintenance of reefs
- lease recording fees
- lease posting costs
- markers and bouys
- equipment costs—boats, engines and gear
- loading docks
- conveyors
- coolers
- hauling vehicles
- fuel
- labor—average crew of 3
- shipping containers
- utilities-water, electricity, gas
- patrol costs to monitor leases for poaching
- insurance
- miscellaneous

Other investments:

- long hours of back breaking work in difficult working conditions...

WITH NO GUARANTEE OF RETURN ON INVESTMENT!

Louisiana's Oyster Industry and It's Place In US Oyster Production

Since the mid-1980's, Louisiana has ranked first among all states in the harvesting, processing and sale of oysters. Over the past decade, Louisiana has strengthened its position as the nation's largest producer of oysters due to increased efforts to encourage oyster farming in private lease areas.

On average Louisiana produced more than 250 million pounds of in-shell product, far out pacing, Washington, the second largest oyster producing state.

Ranking of oyster producing states, 2000 (landings by pound; in-shell weight)

<u>state</u>	<u>'98</u>	<u>'99</u>	<u>'00</u>
Louisiana	12,856,173	12,128,187	11,513,438
Washington	6,489,998	6,746,672	8,439,111
Texas	3,437,926	6,411,229	6,187,818
Maryland	2,460,954	2,439,995	2,368,236
Florida	1,565,629	2,275,213	2,558,803

Since parishes in southern Louisiana and then the State of Louisiana itself started leasing waterbottoms to oyster farmers in the late 1880's, between 60% and 85% of all market oysters have been harvested on private leases in Louisiana. Small businessmen and women make significant investments in leasing, seeding cultivating, maintaining and farming leased waterbottoms in their acreage based on the stability that a long term lease provides. The State guarantee of long-term leases and options to renew have provided, incentives for these farmers to spend their own capital to make these leases productive for the long term and to have access to these costly investments.

Louisiana's Oyster Industry: How It Protects Our Fragile Environment

Few industries in Louisiana are more dependent on a pristine and stable eco-system than the oyster industry and few people have been engaged in protecting our environment and coastline as long as oyster farmers.

Coastal erosion

As we have already seen (A Brief History of Louisiana's Oyster Industry), the state's oystering community first saw the damaging effects of coastal erosion on oyster beds and harvests in the 1940's, sounding the alarm for many people who make their livings along the coast.

By its very nature, building reefs minimizes the loss of coastline. Also, commercial oyster farming helps to rebuild the coastline through the costly and timely building of oyster beds. This process calls for the oyster farmers to seed and cultivate reefs in bays and inlets along the coast, staving off erosion and saltwater intrusion. However, proper cultivation and maintenance of reefs is only possible when the private leaseholder has the state's assurance that his leases will not be restricted in such a way that threatens his significant investment.

Environmental policing

Additionally, oyster farmers have long provided Louisiana with free environmental policing manpower. In the course of cultivating and harvesting activities, oyster farmers are always on the scene in valuable wetlands as the first line of defense, observing and reporting problems and concerns.

Protecting and improving the food chain

Importantly, and occurring in nature itself, oysters are an important part of the food chain, without which many other species would disappear. Reefs formed in cultivation of oysters provide habitat for many forms of aquatic life, including microscopic life. Louisiana's system of automatically renewable, long-term leases to stabilize production has positioned the state as America's premier oyster producer.

Industry Participation in the Fight Against Coastal Erosion

Recent judgements against the state of Louisiana for wrongfully damaging oyster beds in southeastern Louisiana have added to an unfortunate misunderstanding of oyster community attitudes regarding coastal restoration. These judgements stem from the state's arbitrary and ill-advised change in freshwater diversion policies, allowing lower salinity levels in the Caernarvon area far below agreed upon levels, thereby damaging prolific and profitable beds for years to come.

Oystermen at the forefront of coastal restoration efforts

In reality, Louisiana's oyster farmers have much at stake in the battle to fight coastal erosion. In fact, oystermen were among the very first communities to understand the dangers posed by coastal erosion, and to call for action to reverse this dangerous and costly ecological trend.

As long ago as the 1940's and 1950's, leaders of the state's oyster industry began working with state and federal officials to understand the impacts of a diminishing coastline, and to devise effective policies to counter the loss of our valuable coast. Notably, oyster industry groups took a lead in asking federal agencies to address the problem of coastal erosion. Since the 1970's, working with agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Health and Hospitals, and the US Army Corp of Engineers, oyster industry groups including the Louisiana Oyster Task Force and Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association have played a central part in studying the problem and in recommending common sense approaches to solving it.

In fact, in the 1940's, local oyster farmers in Plaquemines Parish were instrumental in planning and undertaking the first freshwater diversion project near Olga on the east side of the river. The work of these early coastal restoration pioneers, who clearly understood the value of diverting freshwater into areas deprived of freshwater, was followed by Plaquemines Parish diversion efforts at Bohemia near White Ditch state efforts at Bayou Lamoque in the 1970's.

It is commonly understood that a loss of coastal land mass can negatively impact oyster harvests, and force the relocation of oyster beds. Clearly, these nature-driven relocations are expensive and destroy years of hard work in reef development, seeding and cultivation.

Moreover, because virtually all oyster farmers live near the coast, raising their families in environments threatened by land loss, farmers have more than just the viability of their own businesses at stake in this battle.

Working together toward lasting solutions

1994 marked a pivotal time in the coastal restoration effort and in the relationship between the industry and the agencies which pursue restoration policies. Suits filed at that time by individual oyster farmers who had lost longtime profitable and viable oyster beds due to the dramatic influx of freshwater at Caernarvon resulted in both industry and agencies beginning to understand the urgent need for greater communication and cooperation toward solving these problems in advance of future conflict.

In 1995, leaders of the oyster industry requested the Louisiana Congressional delegation present legislation that would pay for relocating oyster farms impacted by the Davis Pond Diversion Structure. In the 1997 Water Resources Development Act, Congress authorized and funded a \$7.5 million credit to the state of Louisiana toward the Davis Pond Project cost that would fund the "Oyster Lease Relocation Program".

Working together with state and federal agencies, leading academics and groups active in pursuing new coastal protection policies, the industry facilitated the creation of broad-based committees to review contemporary policies and future plans for coastal restoration and freshwater diversion. The result was a breakthrough in open communication and cooperation, though some issues still remain unresolved.

Notably however, the Oyster Lease Relocation Program, as enacted by the state legislature, seeks to minimize the impact on oyster farmers when major coastal restoration initiatives will pose threats to existing beds.

That this program works effectively is proven by the new Davis Pond freshwater diversion project in St. Charles Parish and the fact that all lease holders in the impacted area have chosen to participate in the program.

Other efforts at working together with all parties have yielded similar policy improvements including legislation creating short term or "bobtail leases" in projected impact zones. These 1-14 year leases apply to areas where the state and federal governments indicate future projects may soon have an adverse impact on oyster farmers, protecting both the farmer and the state in the process.

This development then led the industry and state to push for enactment of still more laws to protect the state from liability issues in other areas close to projected impact zones. In these cases, farmers take leases with the full and complete recognition that their acreage is likely to suffer from coastal restoration efforts, thereby waiving their rights to seek remedy for any damage that does occur.

Today, as another result of this increased cooperation, the state Department of Natural Resources provides maps to oystermen each August 15th which show future plans for coastal restoration projects so that farmers may make September planting decisions with the full knowledge of risks that may arise.

Likewise, the industry now is required to give the state complete information on areas planted, quantities harvested from lease, and the market value of those harvested oysters. This exchange of information protects the state and allows it to make better informed decisions on future policy.

Still, some issues remain to be resolved including the establishment of a new relocation fund to make sure that the costs of relocation do not come from restoration project monies but instead, from a different source such as state and federal tax credits.

As these issues continue to evolve, and the state accelerates efforts to fight coastal erosion, the Louisiana Oyster Task Force continues to seek a "seat at the table" and to be a contributing party to the debate. Candid comment on work of the Governor's Committee on the Future of the Coast and on other task force initiatives will ensure that a full range of views and opinions are heard and that the most effective policies are enacted.

Recent developments: a telling comparison

Recently, two government funded initiatives show vividly the cost-efficiency and value of oystermen's own private investments of time and financial resources. They serve as an important point of comparison.

- Federal and state governments in Maryland recently combined to fund a \$50 million project to develop reefs in Chesapeake Bay hoping to improve the damaged river's eco-system and to reinvigorate this once thriving oystering area. While various shellfish diseases contributed to the decline of the industry in the Chesapeake, the primary reason for the industry's decline was the lack of a private leasing system to guarantee the stability of the farmer's investments. Clearly, the areas system of public harvesting only failed to support and encourage the industry as it does in Louisiana.

In contrast, Louisiana's oyster farmers spend their own financial resources to develop reefs and promote the long term viability of oyster producing areas.

- Here in Louisiana, the state and other agencies just completed a \$100,000 project to build a one-acre reef and habitat Lake Pelto in Terrebonne Parish. This investment is not unlike the commitments private small businessmen engaged in oyster farming make on a routine basis.

A Brief Overview of Louisiana's Oyster Lease Policies 1880-Present

In the 1880's, in an effort to help oyster farmers meet a growing demand for the best in oysters, the state legislature passed laws to allow oyster farmers to purchase leased acreage at a modest rate and to maintain those leases for an extended period of time provided that the rental fees were paid in a timely manner. These policies were initiated under the administration of Governor Murphy Foster who appointed a federal biologist who recommended the forerunner of Louisiana's current leasing system.

This step was taken to help encourage on-going investment in the state's barren and otherwise worthless waterbottoms and to protect the oystering families that were investing their time, effort and money from losing their investments.

Time tested policy

Clearly, these actions of long ago to have stood the test of time to be as wise and prudent today as they were decades ago. In large measure because of these policies, Louisiana's oyster industry is second-to-none, a claim few other industries in our state can accurately make. Louisiana harvests and sells more oysters than any other state while the industry provides jobs for over 10,000 people and nearly \$31 million in dockside sales annually.

To many people who are not involved in the oystering on a regular basis however, the state's system of public and private farming can seem confusing. In reality, though, the system is fairly simple.

It begins with the understanding that oystermen and women are not merely harvesters, but farmers who must seed their acreage, cultivate and maintain it, protect it from man-made and natural threats, and only then harvest it for sale to the consumer. History shows that this system best protects the interests of the state, the consumer, and the oyster farmer.

Two basic types of oyster farming: public harvests

Fundamentally Louisiana has two types of oyster areas: public grounds and private bedding grounds.

Public oyster harvesting takes place in the vast majority of Louisiana's water bottom acreage (approximately 2 million acres) but only accounts for about 20%-40% of all oysters landed in Louisiana.

Private farming

Private leasing began in 1886, facilitating major investment in water bottoms from Louisiana's oyster farmers. Today there are approximately 400,000 acres leased for private farming with significant acreage not currently under lease and still available.

Upon determining that a private leasing area may be suitable for oyster cultivation, a qualified citizen of the state of Louisiana must apply for acreage in that area. This application takes place at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The applicant must pay a significant application and survey fee based on size of area to be leased. In addition, the lessor must also pay annual rental fees.

The acreage is then surveyed, either by a private surveyor or by a state surveyor depending on the decision of the prospective farmer. A copy of the survey is maintained by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in New Orleans.

The Case For Maintaining The Current Lease Systems

As we have seen above, the growth in Louisiana's oyster industry, and the increase in benefits to the state of Louisiana are directly tied to the foresight of policy makers during the late 1800's and early 1990's. Without the stability provided by a system of private leasing, and the assurance that leaseholders will be able to maintain their holdings through a 15-year lease and beyond, there would be little incentive for Louisiana's oyster farmers to invest large sums of money and their valuable time in improving their acreage.

The result of that lack of incentive would be:

- a lack of financial investment.
- fewer jobs in the industry and in related fields such as processing, transportation, equipment sales, etc.
- higher prices for Louisiana oysters which could lead to lower consumer demand and therefore lower sales.
- reduced state tax revenue

Efforts to substantively change Louisiana's long time system of private leasing are misguided and ignore the important influence the stability of long term leasing provides for oyster farmers and the state respectively.

Moreover, the case for radically changing or even eliminating the current system fail to acknowledge that private lease acreage only represents a modest portion of all available waterbottoms. In fact, more than 80% of all waterbottoms are available for public harvesting and are open to one and all without a lease.

Additionally, proponents of a change in policies fail to acknowledge that only a small portion of acreage set aside for leasing is actually under contract at any point in time. The availability of acreage not presently under lease means that people who do want to enter the industry always have ample opportunity to do so.

Risks to the Industry and the Families That Depend On It

Few industries in Louisiana are as vulnerable to as many different sources of risk as the state's oyster industry. From Mother Nature to man-made threats, the families that work in the oyster farming and processing industries are constantly challenged.

One consistent line of defense for the industry however, is the state's current leasing policy which provides at least some stability and assurance that leaseholders will have access to their costly investments for many years regardless of what other threats may be posed to the industry.

Specific risks: naturally occurring

1) Hurricanes and other storms.

Frequent and devastating hurricanes and other strong storms present a considerable challenge to Louisiana's oyster farmers throughout the year. Storm surges often drive huge amount of salt water into bays, inlets and other waterways inhabited by millions of oysters, raising the salinity levels and threatening both the quality and the very existence of oysters in impacted areas.

Likewise, high river stages and massive rainfall also tend to move freshwater from some bodies of water into oyster beds lowering salinity levels and threatening oysters from that angle as well.

2) Weather cycles

Successful oyster harvesting is also highly dependent on various weather cycles, most notably wet and dry cycles that can change conditions for the oysters and impact their size, health and marketability. Dry cycles are especially hazardous because they bring drought and the numerous predators that come with it when the salinity exceeds 15 parts per thousand. (Ideal salinity levels are around 10-15 parts per thousand). Dry seasons also spawn various harmful diseases that have the potential to decimate beds.

Wet seasons bring excessive water and an influx of freshwater into the more salty waters of the coast, particularly during the Spring months of March, April and May.

Excessively wet or dry, weather often upsets the fragile conditions and tenuous environment in which the state's private and public oyster beds are found.

However, Louisiana's oyster farmers have largely learned to work within these cycles, protecting their crops and their investments in the process.

3) Predators.

Oysters have many natural enemies that may routinely kill or harm them including drumfish, redfish, "oyster drills" and other small and intrusive marine life that feast on oysters and other shellfish.

Public policy.

Without much argument, most state and federal legislative and regulatory initiatives serve to protect the integrity of \$280 million oyster industry. As such, the state's oyster farmers strive to work closely with the state legislature, Governor, and agencies like the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, to formulate and implement policies which are as fair, reasonable and beneficial as possible to as many interests as possible.

History shows that the industry supports coastal restoration initiatives and has been instrumental in helping to encourage and create a fair and equitable relocation program that protects the interests of all parties while limiting the financial impact on each.

Prior to formulation of sound public policy

The state of Louisiana's violation of the 1980's agreement with the oyster industry regarding salinity levels in the Caernarvon freshwater diversion project, resulted in damage to many of the region's most prolific oyster beds and in awards for the some oyster industry plaintiffs and against the state of Louisiana.

In these cases, juries and judges ruled that the state could have avoided fouling these oyster beds by remaining true to the original Caernarvon operational agreement instead of ignoring the advice of the industry and other knowledgeable experts and reducing the salinity level in the area by increasing the flow of freshwater into the beds.



To: Mr. Tom Gattle
Chairman, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

From: Tracy Mitchell
Asst. Executive Director
Louisiana Seafood Promotion Board

Subject: Presentation

Date: March 28, 2002

Dear Mr. Gattle,

On behalf of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force, Mike Voisin (Chairman) is requesting that the Task Force be placed on the April 4, 2002 Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting agenda to make an informational presentation.

We would like to give our perspective on "Coastal Restoration and the Oyster Industry". It is for information only.

If you should have any questions, please contact me at 504-568-5695.

Sincerely,

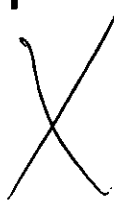


Tracy F. Mitchell

1600 Canal Street, Suite 210

New Orleans, LA 70112

1.800.222.4017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2002						
				1 	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

MONTHLY CIVIL RESTITUTION REPORT

PERIOD	NO. CASES ASSESSED	AMOUNT ASSESSED	CREDIT FOR SALE GOODS	NO. CASES PAID	AMOUNT PAID	DISCOUNTS TAKEN	PERCENT DOLLARS PAID	PERCENT CASES PAID
FISCAL YEAR 1993-94								
July, 1993	25	\$21,039.00	(\$9,778.00)	29	\$4,855.00	\$2,545.00		
Aug., 1993	53	\$44,922.00	(\$1,137.00)	41	\$7,950.00	\$3,603.00		
Sept., 1993	42	\$137,635.00	(\$17,938.00)	35	\$6,783.00	\$3,048.00		
Oct., 1993	49	\$21,471.00	(\$11,282.00)	40	\$3,285.00	\$1,519.00		
Nov., 1993	57	\$31,207.00	(\$13,260.00)	32	\$3,053.00	\$2,845.00		
Dec., 1993	53	\$13,777.00		27	\$6,507.00	\$6,713.00		
Jan., 1994	38	\$18,918.00		32	\$4,423.00	\$2,831.00		
Feb., 1994	68	\$38,131.00	(\$8,238.00)	46	\$9,124.00	\$5,993.00		
Mar., 1994	38	\$22,739.00	(\$2,482.00)	51	\$10,854.00	\$6,796.00		
April, 1994	14	\$44,732.00	(\$1,404.00)	27	\$7,307.00	\$4,632.00		
May, 1994	10	\$4,504.00	(\$165.00)	7	\$5,447.00	\$3,808.00		
June, 1994	29	\$26,167.00	(\$2,986.00)	12	\$1,886.00	\$1,214.00		
Total FY 1994	476	\$425,242.00	(\$68,670.00)	379	\$71,474.00	\$45,547.00	27.5%	79.6%
FISCAL YEAR 1994-95								
July, 1994	17	\$2,127.00	(\$335.00)	23	\$2,101.00	\$1,437.00		
Aug., 1994	41	\$96,403.00	(\$3,035.00)	20	\$1,010.00	\$605.00		
Sept., 1994	34	\$14,614.00	(\$14,002.00)	26	\$2,596.00	\$2,342.00		
Oct., 1994	94	\$17,426.00	(\$8,677.00)	38	\$2,922.00	\$3,179.00		
Nov., 1994	43	\$103,592.00		45	\$3,992.00	\$2,803.00		
Dec., 1994	68	\$31,400.00		35	\$4,315.00	\$2,329.00		
Jan., 1995	55	\$27,601.00		52	\$7,493.00	\$4,921.00		
Feb., 1995	70	\$61,119.00		41	\$6,472.00	\$3,973.00		
Mar., 1995	31	\$25,072.00		44	\$8,315.00	\$4,737.00		
Apr., 1995	13	\$15,353.00		16	\$3,565.00	\$1,538.00		
May., 1995	23	\$11,632.00		16	\$4,315.00	\$654.00		
June 1995	45	\$31,008.00		18	\$2,630.00	\$1,025.00		
Total FY 1995	534	\$437,347.00	(\$26,049.00)	374	\$49,726.00	\$29,543.00	18.1%	70.0%
FISCAL YEAR 1995-96								
July, 1995	0	\$0.00						
Aug., 1995	46	\$17,425.00		27	\$9,028.00	\$1,729.00		
Sept., 1995	1	\$125.00		21	\$3,093.00	\$2,049.00		
Oct., 1995	122	\$206,244.00		29	\$2,720.00	\$1,161.00		
Nov., 1995	55	\$23,124.00		62	\$10,151.00	\$6,383.00		
Dec., 1995	50	\$18,607.26		32	\$4,780.66	\$2,802.76		
Jan., 1996	49	\$13,814.88	(\$15,296.45)	36	\$5,296.51	\$3,472.89		
Feb., 1996	50	\$14,716.97		38	\$5,777.53	\$3,416.91		
Mar., 1996	33	\$24,936.91		36	\$6,035.12	\$3,421.75		
Apr., 1996	30	\$11,006.66		36	\$7,173.12	\$2,711.54		
May., 1996	23	\$7,989.34		24	\$3,941.69	\$2,020.29		
June 1996	50	\$22,151.31		16	\$2,790.02	\$1,182.23		
Total FY 1996	509	\$360,141.33	(\$15,296.45)	357	\$60,786.65	\$30,350.37	25.3%	70.1%
FISCAL YEAR 1996-97								
July, 1996	40	\$71,894.13		32	\$5,249.93	\$2,947.96		
Aug., 1996	32	\$5,362.64		32	\$6,254.59	\$3,783.69		
Sept., 1996	41	\$7,210.00		29	\$2,259.96	\$1,326.58		
Oct., 1996	29	\$11,092.53		25	\$3,697.89	\$2,261.98		
Nov., 1996	20	\$10,009.10		22	\$1,624.63	\$698.02		
Dec., 1996	13	\$238,466.04		22	\$5,877.18	\$2,121.53		
Jan., 1997	27	\$11,755.22		17	\$4,393.30	\$2,377.09		
Feb., 1997	47	\$18,520.87		42	\$8,579.84	\$5,552.63		
Mar., 1997	26	\$13,434.02		27	\$4,999.59	\$2,757.67		
Apr., 1997	10	\$2,908.87		15	\$2,322.88	\$1,298.66		
May., 1997	20	\$11,682.70		15	\$5,198.91	\$1,399.21		
June 1997	5	\$8,036.58		10	\$2,335.24	\$765.34		
Total FY 1997	310	\$410,372.70	\$0.00	288	\$52,793.94	\$27,290.36	19.5%	92.9%
FISCAL YEAR 1997 - 98								
July, 1997	10	\$2,811.71		8	\$1,584.67	\$823.11		
Aug., 1997	14	\$8,741.30		8	\$1,496.49	\$779.14		
Sept., 1997	29	\$19,926.37		12	\$2,051.78	\$1,278.04		
Oct., 1997	12	\$4,716.81		23	\$3,184.83	\$2,063.89		
Nov., 1997	23	\$54,965.34		10	\$2,424.86	\$1,218.28		
Dec., 1997	25	\$36,881.09		15	\$4,376.97	\$2,775.66		
Jan., 1998	42	\$30,025.81		17	\$5,300.40	\$3,533.66		
Feb., 1998	37	\$31,164.95		29	\$22,961.69	\$8,501.18		
Mar., 1998	9	\$13,273.45		32	\$9,406.56	\$4,371.53		

Apr., 1998	10	\$5,628.21		10	\$2,602.62	\$1,279.77		
May., 1998	0	\$225.00		8	\$2,885.02	\$950.46		
June 1998	5	\$2,414.03		6	\$1,041.54	\$98.00		
Total FY 1998	216	\$210,774.07	\$0.00	178	\$59,317.43	\$27,672.72	41.3%	82.4%
FICAL YEAR 1998 - 99								
July, 1998	9	\$1,390.43		8	\$1,964.20	\$716.75		
Aug., 1998	10	\$2,240.70		10	\$1,048.28	\$372.47		
Sept., 1998	8	\$2,768.96		11	\$2,000.36	\$1,148.23		
Oct., 1998	22	\$28,704.85		14	\$1,860.17	\$807.48		
Nov., 1998	19	\$9,137.79		11	\$1,765.97	\$1,092.43		
Dec., 1998	23	\$11,959.10		27	\$4,441.02	\$2,040.71		
Jan., 1999	41	\$21,179.55		18	\$6,621.63	\$3,838.22		
Feb., 1999	45	\$26,236.24		41	\$12,119.09	\$6,923.61		
Mar., 1999	15	\$7,549.57		33	\$8,281.77	\$4,138.44		
Apr., 1999	9	\$8,013.54		14	\$3,035.82	\$1,388.41		
May., 1999	5	\$5,161.23		5	\$905.50	\$405.00		
June 1999	7	\$3,719.01		13	\$3,011.06	\$533.83		
Total FY 1999	213	\$128,060.97	\$0.00	205	\$47,054.87	\$23,405.58	55.0%	96.2%
FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000								
July, 1999	5	\$1,556.38		9	\$2,287.53	\$1,198.81		
Aug., 1999	10	\$2,510.83		15	\$2,455.38	\$513.73		
Sept., 1999	6	\$2,032.19	\$5,324.80	28	\$3,563.06	\$475.93		
Oct., 1999	11	\$4,452.31	\$567.75	25	\$2,775.48	\$557.41		
Nov., 1999	14	\$8,634.64		26	\$3,250.96	\$1,322.96		
Dec., 1999	24	\$15,891.96		19	\$3,862.76	\$2,126.27		
Jan., 2000	49	\$27,872.14		28	\$7,952.94	\$3,814.02		
Feb., 2000	21	\$11,039.59		30	\$10,159.24	\$6,216.42		
Mar., 2000	19	\$9,873.21		31	\$6,709.07	\$3,555.40		
Apr., 2000	12	\$7,897.70		17	\$2,932.41	\$1,512.54		
May, 2000	7	\$5,039.46	\$293.60	20	\$7,062.23	\$3,164.00		
June, 2000	16	\$14,566.88		18	\$5,766.59	\$1,852.12		
Total FY 2000	194	\$111,367.29	\$6,186.15	266	\$58,777.65	\$26,309.61	76%	137%
FISCAL YEAR 2000-01								
July, 2000	2	\$865.01		14	\$1,948.03	\$154.01		
Aug., 2000	20	\$15,837.60		17	\$3,302.27	\$1,063.92		
Sept., 2000	12	\$3,562.26		23	\$8,718.21	\$1,351.41		
Oct., 2000	18	\$122,696.24		29	\$7,457.98	\$490.16		
Nov, 2000	13	\$15,851.30		22	\$4,038.50	\$309.30		
Dec., 2000	40	\$30,234.92		24	\$7,189.98	\$462.13		
Jan., 2001	28	\$15,923.38		25	\$7,611.66	\$833.60		
Feb., 2001	35	\$20,181.39		30	\$18,568.12	\$1,917.82		
Mar., 2001	8	\$5,956.83		37	\$15,724.02	\$753.86		
Apr., 2001	20	\$24,145.82		22	\$4,856.39	\$225.93		
May 2001	4	\$1,677.36		20	\$3,700.77	\$313.58		
June 2001	3	\$932.20		31	\$8,433.81	\$346.90		
Total FY 2001	203	\$257,864.31	\$0.00	294	\$91,549.74	\$8,222.62	39%	145%
FISCAL YEAR 2001-02								
July, 2001	4	\$4,290.29		25	\$6,328.36	\$293.54		
Aug., 2001	6	\$9,452.69		18	\$2,984.52			
Sept., 2001	0	\$175.00		25	\$4,157.32	\$66.29		
Oct., 2001	15	\$6,439.06		18	\$3,174.66	\$67.32		
Nov., 2001	15	\$5,913.63		24	\$3,932.41	\$194.66		
Dec., 2001	36	\$21,868.88		20	\$5,384.19	\$502.17		
Jan., 2002	56	\$27,650.44		38	\$11,100.99	\$1,008.09		
Feb., 2002	27	\$14,211.31	\$620.55	37	\$20,017.87	\$861.63		
Mar., 2002	8	\$6,765.68		36	\$10,061.89	\$419.16		
Apr., 2002								
May, 2002								
June, 2002								
Total FY 2002	167	\$96,766.98	\$620.55	241	\$67,142.21	\$3,412.86	73%	144%

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT
CURRENT MONTH
03/01/2002 TO 03/31/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	8	\$6,765.68
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	0	\$0.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	0	\$0.00
=====		
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	8	\$6,765.68
PAYMENTS	28	\$9,306.83-
PAYMENTS AFTER PAST DUE NOTICE	4	\$280.00-
PAYMENTS AFTER REVOKED NOTICE	2	\$310.06-
PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	2	\$115.00-
PAYMENTS FROM HRG COST ASSESSED	2	\$50.00-
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	10	\$419.16-
OVERPAYMENTS	5	\$1.85
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	0	\$0.00
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	0	\$0.00
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	0	\$0.00
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
REASSESSMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
WRITE-OFFS	1	\$0.54-
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	0	\$0.00
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	0	\$0.00
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	0	\$0.00
DISMISSED BY D.A.	0	\$0.00
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00

FOOTNOTE:

FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
--------------------------------	---	--------

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
07/01/2001 TO 03/31/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	167	\$96,066.98
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	28	\$700.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	0	\$0.00
=====		
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	167	\$96,766.98
PAYMENTS	125	\$46,317.06-
PAYMENTS AFTER PAST DUE NOTICE	13	\$2,756.81-
PAYMENTS AFTER REVOKED NOTICE	14	\$3,313.70-
PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	15	\$14,229.64-
PAYMENTS FROM HRG COST ASSESSED	32	\$825.00-
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	71	\$3,412.86-
OVERPAYMENTS	16	\$4.24
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	4	\$344.94
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	1	\$620.55-
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	0	\$0.00
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	0	\$0.00
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
REASSESSMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	1	\$209.14-
WRITE-OFFS	6	\$38,505.31-
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	1	\$395.71-
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	0	\$0.00
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	9	\$6,028.99-
DISMISSED BY D.A.	0	\$0.00
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00

FOOTNOTE:

FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	1	\$132.50
--------------------------------	---	----------

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT
INCEPTION TO DATE
03/31/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	4,365	\$3,053,681.20
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	286	\$7,575.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	331	\$269,865.45-
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	138	\$58,209.82
=====		
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	4,365	\$2,849,600.57
PAYMENTS	2,950	\$614,337.16-
PAYMENTS AFTER PAST DUE NOTICE	28	\$4,453.51-
PAYMENTS AFTER REVOKED NOTICE	58	\$18,888.21-
PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	40	\$22,407.24-
PAYMENTS FROM HRG COST ASSESSED	155	\$4,050.00-
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	2,069	\$255,717.91-
OVERPAYMENTS	114	\$91.89
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	57	\$11,620.13
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	15	\$32,367.85-
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	3	\$1,327.94
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	8	\$45,896.70
RETURNED CHECKS	1	\$61.75
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS		
DEBITS	3	\$55.00
CREDITS	13	\$10.22-
REASSESSMENTS		
DEBITS	21	\$6,881.15
CREDITS	63	\$36,913.30-
WRITE-OFFS	982	\$1,064,754.61-
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	7	\$1,794.95-
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	24	\$12,388.80-
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	72	\$155,298.20-
DISMISSED BY D.A.	0	\$0.00
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	2	\$559.32-
		=====
** TOTAL OUTSTANDING	312	\$691,593.85

FOOTNOTE:

FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	38	\$106,941.70 *
--------------------------------	----	----------------

AGING OF SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODITIES

VIOLATION DATE UNKNOWN	0	\$0.00
1 - 30 DAYS	1	\$1,708.60
31 - 60 DAYS	0	\$0.00
61 - 90 DAYS	7	\$1,634.79
91 - 120 DAYS	3	\$8,476.70
121 - 150 DAYS	2	\$311.54
151 - 180 DAYS	6	\$2,671.55
181 - 365 DAYS	84	\$85,974.10
OVER ONE YEAR	150	\$127,753.00
OVER TWO YEARS	136	\$64,518.72
OVER THREE YEARS	701	\$500,906.50
		=====
** TOTAL AGING	1,090	\$793,955.50

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES

COLLECTIONS WITH AGENCY:

CAN NOT BE INVOICED	0	\$0.00
CURRENT	7	\$6,220.84
1 - 30 DAYS	28	\$15,377.40
31 - 90 DAYS	28	\$16,861.20
91 - 180 DAYS	11	\$5,279.41
181 - 365 DAYS	18	\$31,512.93
OVER ONE YEAR	138	\$135,544.22

COLLECTIONS WITH PRIVATE COLLECTIONS FIRM:

1 - 90 DAYS	0	\$0.00
91 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	80	\$406,032.31

AMOUNT UNDER PROTEST:

1 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	2	\$74,765.54
		=====

** TOTAL AGING	312	\$691,593.85
----------------	-----	--------------

ENF_525U

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT
CURRENT MONTH
03/01/2002-03/31/2002PAGE: 1
DATE: 04/01/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
FINES	659	\$33,800.00
HEARING COSTS		
DEBITS	99	\$2,475.00
CREDITS	5	\$125.00-
		=====
TOTAL DUE		\$36,150.00

=====

PAID IN FULL	512	\$28,854.00-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	10	\$455.00-
ATTORNEY GENERAL COLLECTIONS	1	\$50.00-
ATTORNEY GENERAL FEES	1	\$25.00-
WRITE-OFFS	0	\$0.00
OVERPAYMENTS	1	\$4.00
REFUNDS	7	\$305.00
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00
MISC CHANGES		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION		
DEBITS	8	\$600.00
CREDITS	2	\$100.00-
VOIDS	21	\$1,050.00-
NOT GUILTY	4	\$200.00-
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	1	\$50.00-
DISMISSED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00
GUILTY/FINE WAIVED	4	\$200.00-

ENF_525U

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
07/01/2001-03/31/2002

PAGE: 2
DATE: 04/01/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
FINES	4,881	\$249,010.00
HEARING COSTS		
DEBITS	2,868	\$71,700.00
CREDITS	54	\$1,826.00-
		=====
TOTAL DUE		\$318,884.00

=====

PAID IN FULL	4,627	\$269,050.29-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	103	\$4,532.50-
ATTORNEY GENERAL COLLECTIONS	9	\$440.00-
ATTORNEY GENERAL FEES	25	\$220.00-
WRITE-OFFS	5	\$195.00-
OVERPAYMENTS	4	\$12.79
REFUNDS	47	\$2,570.00
RETURNED CHECKS	4	\$125.00
MISC CHANGES		
DEBITS	4	\$40.00
CREDITS	1	\$0.85-
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION		
DEBITS	17	\$1,050.00
CREDITS	10	\$700.00-
VOIDS	196	\$9,800.00-
NOT GUILTY	138	\$7,000.00-
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	78	\$3,900.00-
DISMISSED BY ENFORCEMENT	22	\$1,100.00-
GUILTY/FINE WAIVED	24	\$1,200.00-

ENF_525U

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT
INCEPTION TO DATE
03/31/2002PAGE: 3
DATE: 04/01/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
FINES	94,936	\$4,826,787.07
HEARING COSTS		
DEBITS	23,890	\$597,412.80
CREDITS	55	\$9,191.00-
		=====
TOTAL DUE		\$5,415,008.87

=====

PAID IN FULL	55,734	\$2,930,029.52-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	1,448	\$65,749.25-
ATTORNEY GENERAL COLLECTIONS	14	\$690.00-
ATTORNEY GENERAL FEES	30	\$345.00-
WRITE-OFFS	5	\$195.00-
OVERPAYMENTS	171	\$3,930.78
REFUNDS	250	\$12,052.81
RETURNED CHECKS	69	\$3,550.00
MISC CHANGES		
DEBITS	68	\$1,070.00
CREDITS	168	\$141.88-
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION		
DEBITS	182	\$10,600.00
CREDITS	31	\$1,900.00-
VOIDS	5,027	\$252,700.00-
NOT GUILTY	1,148	\$58,250.00-
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	159	\$8,050.00-
DISMISSED BY ENFORCEMENT	22	\$1,100.00-
GUILTY/FINE WAIVED	155	\$7,800.00-
		=====
TOTAL OUTSTANDING		\$2,119,261.81

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES FROM CITATION DATE

COLLECTIONS WITH AGENCY:

CURRENT	385	\$19,850.00
1 - 30 DAYS	288	\$14,785.00
31 - 90 DAYS	327	\$17,075.00
91 - 180 DAYS	492	\$26,640.00
181 - 365 DAYS	1,489	\$106,510.50
OVER ONE YEAR	29,585	\$1,919,361.31

COLLECTIONS WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL:

1 - 90 DAYS	0	\$0.00
91 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	200	\$15,040.00

AMOUNT UNDER PROTEST:

1 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	0	\$0.00

=====

** TOTAL AGING	32,766	\$2,119,261.81
----------------	--------	----------------

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES FROM HEARING DATE

PREHEARING	756	\$39,035.00
0 - 90 DAYS	2,332	\$117,915.00
91 - 180 DAYS	937	\$65,055.00
181 - 270 DAYS	344	\$26,413.00
271 - 365 DAYS	429	\$31,442.50
OVER ONE YEAR	27,968	\$1,839,401.31

=====

** TOTAL AGING	32,766	\$2,119,261.81
----------------	--------	----------------

SCHEDULE FOR FINAL RULES TO BE PUBLISHED IN STATE REGISTER

MAY-02

RULE - Hunting Preserve Regulations

RULE - Harvest of Mullet

JULY-02

RULE - 2002-03 Hunting Season Dates & Bag
Limits

RULE - General & WMA Hunting Rules &
Regulations

Meeting to set hunting seasons

I want to comment on a recent meeting I went to at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

It was a meeting to set the hunting seasons in the state for the coming year. It was attended by seven commissioners, Mr. Jimmy Jenkins and a couple of other political appointees, none of whom I have ever heard of or knew.

At any rate, the meeting started in a timely manner, and it was obviously of importance to sportsmen because there were many in attendance.

The Wildlife Management team gave recommendations for the hunting seasons, and then there was a time for public comment.

I was amazed that the head of the commission told them to keep their comments short. These are people who were missing work to come to the meeting because it was important to them, but they had to keep their comments short and they couldn't ask any questions.

How in the world is the public supposed to know anything if you can't ask questions or can only make brief comments? These men accepted this job, and though it may be voluntary, they accepted it, and that job is to listen to the public.

We, the public, are at the mercy of these bureaucrats. The commission should save the public from the bureaucrats.

The bureaucrats just do whatever they want to do,

and this meeting was a mere formality. They had planned already what they were going to do. They passed it without one nay vote, and everybody lost.

I had hoped that the press section, which was filled, would be able to help the public; but they are so busy applauding the bureaucrats that they forget their job.

All in all, I am very disappointed. I think that the dependence of these commissioners on what a few wildlife biologists tell them is appalling.

The wildlife biologists don't have any idea what's going on with wildlife. It's taken them until 2002 to figure out when baby deer are being born in certain areas of the state and to adjust the seasons appropriately.

That doesn't give me any great boost of confidence in where my tax dollars are being spent.

You deer hunters had better wake up. If you keep believing and listening to the catch phrases coming from Wildlife and Fisheries, you won't kill one deer every six years by the time they get through managing your herd.

There is no area in the state that they have managed where the number of deer killed has increased. The numbers go down.

Deer size depends on aging, weather and food, and they haven't figured that out yet.

Neil Smith III, M.D.
2223 Quail Run
Baton Rouge

Black history speech is criticized

I read with great interest a recent column by Mr. Edward Pratt, editor of SATURDAY. The column dealt with a white teen-age boy from Baton Rouge, who wrote a school speech on black history. It was a very nice speech, but I found one particular passage especially interesting.

The student said it is as important to study Booker T. Washington as it is to study George Washington, as important to study Richard Wright as to study the Wright brothers and as important to study Jesse Jackson as to study Andrew Jackson.

Let's start with the Jacksons. Andrew Jackson fought in the Revolutionary War at age 14. By the time of the War of 1812, he had become a general in the army and was the hero of the Battle of New Orleans because of his defeat of the British there. In 1828 he became the seventh president of the United States.

Jesse Jackson is the greatest "shakedown" artist of our time. In the name of civil rights, he has enriched himself and his family.

The Wright brothers simply gave us flight.

Richard Wright, a black author and poet, didn't give us flight, but he did take flight. He turned his back on this country and took flight to live in another country. He didn't leave because he was black. He left because

he and his wife were official, card-carrying communists. He made no secret of that fact.

Booker T. Washington was a great black educator who believed that all people should educate themselves, work hard and constantly strive to improve the quality of their character. He believed that people should take personal responsibility for the conditions of their own lives. Oddly, there are people today, both black and white, who still believe in Booker T. Washington's outmoded philosophy of personal responsibility. They are the people who make this country work and make this country great.

The very fact that the young man would compare Jesse Jackson and Richard Wright to those other four great men is an outrage and a sad commentary on what is being taught in the Baton Rouge public school system.

If a professional con man such as Jesse Jackson and a communist such as Richard Wright are being presented to students as great Americans, no wonder so many people are fleeing the public school system in search of good private schools.

R. Glynn Kelly
2956 La. 957
Ethel

Jesus' teachings were not liberal

This letter is in response to the letter on March 14 from Alex Chapman Jr., calling Jesus Christ "the greatest liberal of them all." Again, this is clearly proof of how liberals twist and "spin" history and the facts to support their point of view, completely ignoring the truth.

Initially, he speaks of biblical principles that Jesus

ism. Instead, he taught each person should depend solely on God for all his or her needs. Jesus taught that people would "reap what they sow." Liberalism teaches that each person should reap what someone else sows. Also, he cites Jesus' death by capital punishment, but does not acknowledge that the Bible is filled with Scripture supporting capital punishment and

Carlos
LSU st

Uh
W

Mormon
ing 1,300
easy. Wi
Dallas.

Even o
not trav
a warp
gate you
departur
travelers
a water
of a pyth

So as I
day. We
something
astoundi
that nob

— could
February
had a Sm
apparent
over to E

So whe
be delay
informed
were del
he was ta
who seem
son we've
After tha
gate.

[At that
and a hal
another
time we
gritty sub
because y
gers that
ty reason
which col

Anyway
hustled th
heartened
bound fil
"Wow!"
One fort

the MINU
And gue
boarded
1:41 And
and th

Doon

focuses on assuring that primary healthcare services are available throughout Louisiana, regardless of family income. Jennifer Milne, board member, just completed her master of social work degree from LSU and is working for child welfare in Livingston Parish. Cal Bankston, secretary to the board, has retired from state

is rarely recognized for the contribution it makes to the community.
Martha G. Forbes, MPA, LCSW
executive director
National Association of Social Workers-La.
700 N. 10th St.
Baton Rouge

Commission critic inaccurate

I am writing in response to a letter to the editor titled "Meeting to set hunting seasons," which ran in the March 23 SATURDAY Letters section. The letter, written by Neil Smith III, M.D., contained inaccurate comments regarding the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the proposed hunting seasons for 2002-2003.

The commission is a seven-member governing board appointed by the governor to give direction to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The commission members serve voluntarily and with no compensation. They are as varied in their careers and geographical locations as the citizenry of Louisiana. The commission's common objective is to balance the needs and requests of Louisiana user groups with the recommendations of the department.

Dr. Smith needs to understand that we were not setting the hunting seasons at the March commission meeting; we were giving "notice of intent" to do so. Legally, all Louisiana citizens have 120 days to make comments to the department and commission before the ratification of the hunting seasons. The commission made this clear at the March meeting. It is the intent of the commission to hear all comments of the public.

During my term on the commission I have witnessed lengthy testimony that frequently deviates from the subject matter and can prevent

others from having an opportunity to speak. When questions are asked of the commission, we respond or refer these questions to the department personnel, as was the case at the March meeting.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, its biologists and administrative staff held public meetings around the state throughout March. The purpose of those meetings was to allow citizens of Louisiana to voice their opinions regarding the hunting seasons, as well as other issues before the department and commission. The results of these meetings will be shared with the commission. We "bureaucrats" are doing all we can to listen to the opinion of the public.

Unfortunately, Louisiana ranks at the bottom of many national polls. This is not the case when it comes to the management of our natural resources. Louisiana is recognized nationally as a leader in many areas of wildlife management. Contrary to the comments of Dr. Smith, our deer herd has been increasing in size and health due to the efforts of the department.

I am proud to be able to serve on the commission and be a part of Wildlife and Fisheries' effort on behalf of the citizens of Louisiana.

Thomas M. Gatte Jr.
Route 1, Box 40
Lake Providence

Archery season plan opposed

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission recently proposed changes in hunting regulations for the upcoming season. The commission is proposing to delay the start of archery season in Area 6 from Oct. 1 to Nov. 1. The reasoning for the delay is that does killed in October have fawns that are too young to survive. Why has it taken the department's biologist more than 30 years to come to this conclusion?

The proposed regulations would reduce archery hunting by 28 days per year. This will have a negative impact on archery shops, and I'm sure that some of them will have to close down. Fewer people will hunt with bows and arrows, and this reduction in sales of hunting equipment will reduce our state's portion of taxes being received from the Pittman Robertson Act.

More than 100 archers were present March 7 at the Wildlife and Fisheries meeting to express their opposition to the proposed changes. Several very good suggestions were presented to the board that would prevent a reduction in hunting allowed.

1. Begin archery season Oct. 1 for bucks only until Nov. 1, and then any sex deer thereafter. This will give fawns a chance to mature and a better chance for survival.

2. Begin archery season Nov. 1, and extend it to Feb. 28. This would give archery hunters the same number of days to hunt as before.

Rather than reducing time available for hunt-

ing, the commission should be looking for ways to increase it. This is good, wholesome recreation that entire families can enjoy. This allows parents, children and grandparents to share quality time together.

Please call or write to your legislators and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to express your concerns about these changes. Please do so now. Tomorrow may be too late.

Brad Thibodaux
11715 Old Hammond Highway
Baton Rouge

LETTERS POLICY

The Advocate reserves space on this page for readers to express their views on current issues. The Advocate is not responsible for the opinions expressed. Readers are asked to be brief and courteous. Letters are not to exceed 450 words in length. Libelous or offensive personal attacks are unacceptable. Letters must include the author's signature, correct address (which will be published) and a telephone number (which will not be published) to facilitate verification. Send letters to: Letters to the Editor, The Advocate, P.O. Box 588, Baton Rouge, La. 70821-0588.

lapses of judgment."

Wertheimer acknowledges the suading Congress to make the that banning soft money also or an impossible task and finally w counters that, "It's one thing to v double the money coming to you the new law's raising regulated ' \$1,000 a contributor to \$2,000 members of Congress to "create in their control. When," he as relinquished that kind of contro

The reformers, however, argu sense to strengthen the law to c est influence and corruption in and then leave the toothless, h enforcement agency in place.

Their complaint, one of long on greater urgency and volum on the FEC of two admitted finance laws. Commissioners David Mason have been outspc tion to any regulation of camp Congress was considering the l

One concern is how the FEC deal with the inevitable scheme the new law. One obvious dodg increased funding of more sc expenditure groups, which may for a candidate provided they own, with no collusion whateve

The reformers fear that the sion will fail to keep these grou ing the floodgates to the unreg money the new law is intende their recent legislative succes climate of concern and awar who will demand effective enf

But it's just as likely that 1 finally having passed a modes time in more than 25 years, v enough to peddle themselves ers, and need to do no more.

Jules Wiltcover's
by Tribune Medi

TODAY'S LIFE

"Hatred stirreth up strifes: sins." Proverbs 10:12

Does love or hatred control the day. Love makes life wort

Bottom Liners

I'M EITHER
OR COO.
A DETAIL



LaCaze, B "Keith"

From: ashley fisher [fisher@krocket.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2002 9:41 PM
To: Lacaze_BK@wlf.state.la.us
Subject: Area 6 - Proposed Changes in Archery Season

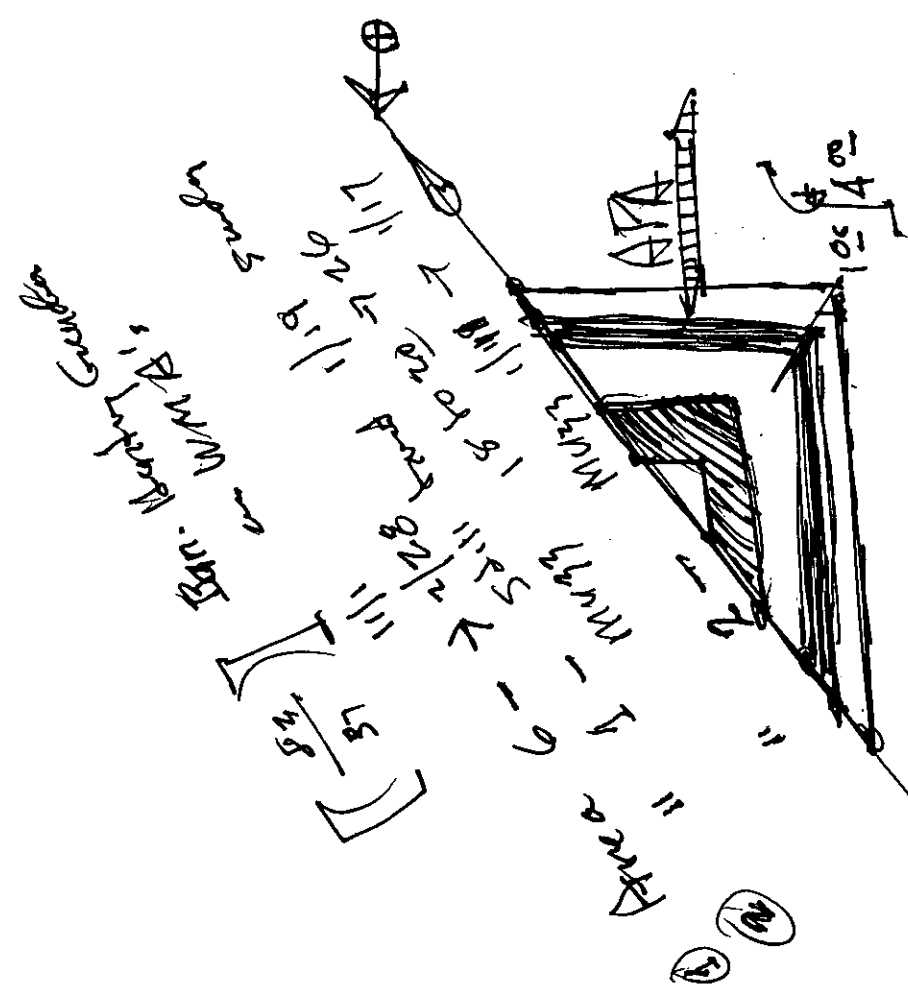
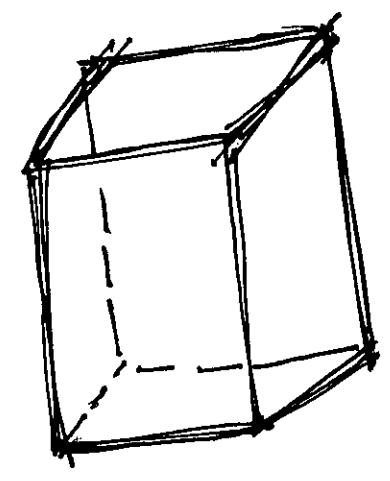
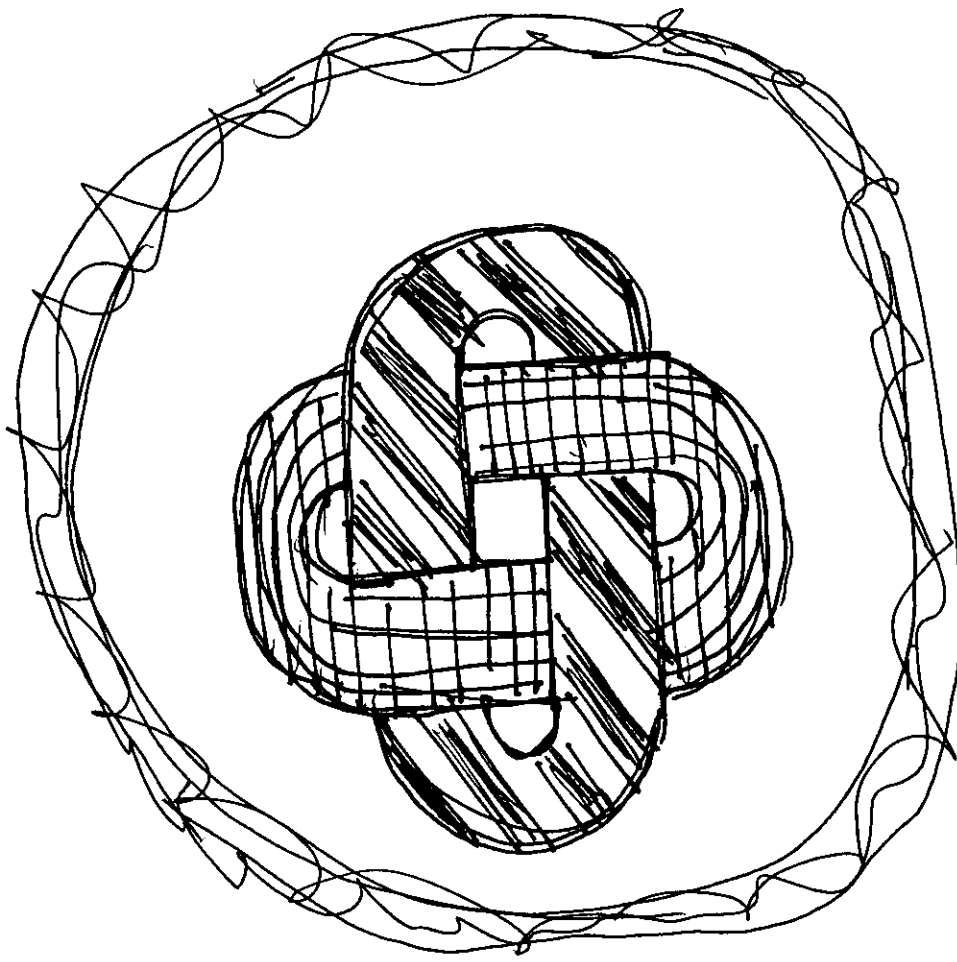
Major Lacaze,

Would you please make sure that this is forwarded to the Commission for their consideration? First, I want to give you a profile of what type of deer hunter I am. I am 50 years old, and I have been an archery hunter for 32 years. I do not belong to a hunting club, and I do very little deer hunting with a firearm. I hunt mainly on two small private tracks in St. Landry parish, Thistlewaite WMA, and recently Pomme de Terre WMA. I have read the study on the breeding data from Area 6 and feel it has some merit. Basically, it says that breeding/fawning takes place one month later in Area 6. Yet, the proposed seasons shorten the archery season by 29 days, rather than just postpone the entire season one month. Some of the "new" hunters bow hunt only to add either sex days to their season, and would exchange a few days of bow hunting any day, for more either sex firearms opportunities. I want to speak for those of us who bow hunt for the pleasure of it, and spend many hours on stand observing deer behavior from a distance and not just shooting deer. If you must open the archery season November 1, please allow us to archery hunt through February. The same biologists that proposed the season changes agree that bow hunting deer in February in Area 6 will do no harm, and is no different than bow hunting deer in January in other areas of the state.

I attended the public hearing in Alexandria on March 19, and I was disappointed that so few hunters were there to participate. I want to thank Major Lacaze for allowing me to use this means to convey my views to the Commission on this very important issue.

Thank You Again,

Sidney Fisher



MGT - Law Enf: Mgt-program
 + research - Jan 2.4 MM
 1-400K

AFAC → → → Project
 Alex Curinger EAF

< MONTHLY REPORT >
 < ENFORCEMENT DIVISION - HUNTER EDUCATION SECTION >
 DATE March 2002

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Total
Total Hunter Education Courses Taught Statewide									17
Total Students Certified Statewide in Hunter Education									718
Number Hunter Education Courses Taught by Volunteers	0	0	3	5	1	2	0	2	13
Number Hunter Education Courses Taught by Coordinators	10	1	2	10	0	1	10	10	44
Number Hunter Education Courses Assisted by Coordinator	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4
Number Hunter Education Students Certified by Region	0	16	285	98	24 34	227	0	58	718
Bowhunter Education Courses Taught by Region	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number Bowhunter Education Students Certified by Region	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number Hunter Education Instructors Courses	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Number Hunter Education Instructors Certified	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	27

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BATON ROUGE, LA

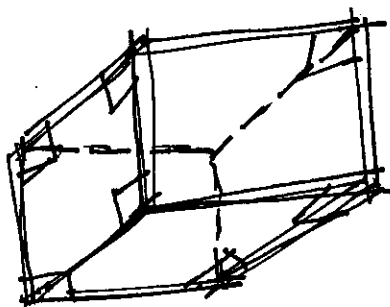
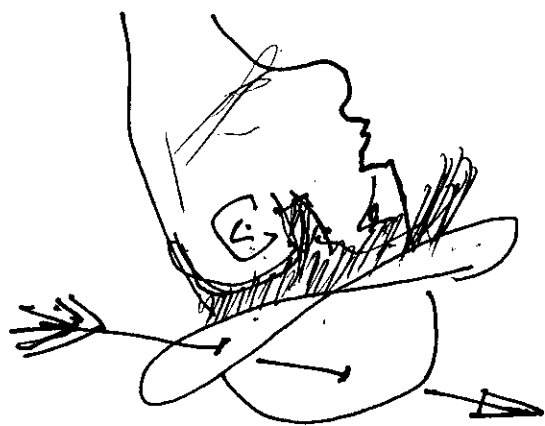
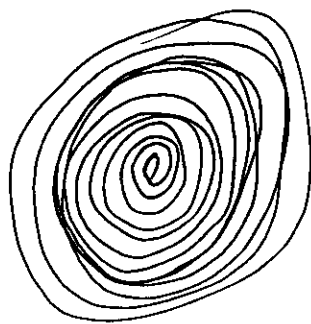
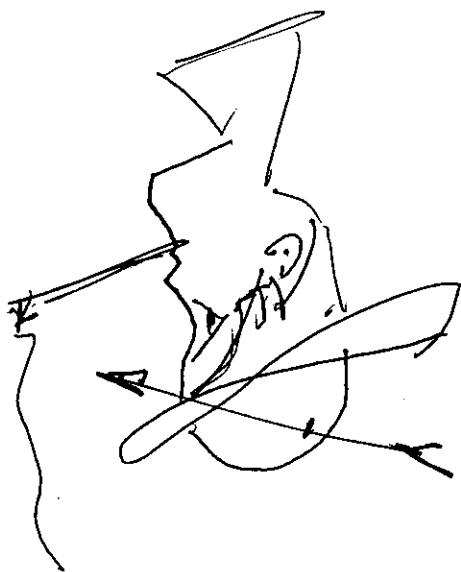
April 4, 2002

10:00 AM

- ✓ 1. Roll Call
- ✓ 2. Approval of Minutes of March 7, 2002
- ✓ 3. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March - Keith LaCaze
- ✓ 4. Public Comments - 2002-03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules & Regulations
- ✓ 5. Notice of Intent - Suspension of Collection of Portion of Alligator Tag Fee - Phil Bowman
- ✓ 6. Fishing Week Resolution - Wayne Huston
- ✓ 7. Notice of Intent - Prohibit Gill Nets, Trammel Nets, and Fish Seines in Cypress Lake & Black Bayou Reservoir Located in Bossier Parish, Louisiana - Bennie Fontenot
- ✓ 8. Oyster Task Force Report on Coastal Restoration and the Oyster Industry - Mike Voisin, Oyster Task Force
9.

 Set August 2002 Meeting Date
10. Public Comments
11. Adjournment

[Handwritten signature]



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
225/765-2925

2002-080

3/27/02

AGENDA SET FOR LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for **10:00 A.M. on Thursday, April 4, 2002**, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, La.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of March 7, 2002
3. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March
4. Public Comments - 2002-03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules & Regulations
5. Notice of Intent - Suspension of Collection of Portion of Alligator Tag Fee
6. Fishing Week Resolution
7. Notice of Intent - Prohibit Gill Nets, Trammel Nets, and Fish Seines in Cypress Lake & Black Bayou Reservoir Located in Bossier Parish, Louisiana
8. Oyster Task Force Report on Coastal Restoration and the Oyster Industry
9. Set August 2002 Meeting Date
10. Public Comments
11. Adjournment

EDITORS: For more information, contact Marianne Burke at 225/765-2925
(burke_mm@wlf.state.la.us).

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
225/765-2925

2002-079

3/27/02

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION MINERALS COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Minerals Committee of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will meet on Thursday, April 4, 2002, in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, La. The meeting, scheduled to begin at 9:15 AM, will be to discuss the method and procedure used to set current values charged for fill sand and fill material royalties.

EDITORS: *For more information, contact Marianne Burke at 225/765-2925 (burke_mm@wlf.state.la.us).*



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
March 27, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: April Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, April 4, 2002, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of March 7, 2002

WINTON VIDRINE

3. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

4. Public Comments - 2002-03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules & Regulations
5. Notice of Intent - Suspension of Collection of Portion of Alligator Tag Fee
6. Fishing Week Resolution

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

7. Notice of Intent - Prohibit Gill Nets, Trammel Nets, and Fish Seines in Cypress Lake & Black Bayou Reservoir Located in Bossier Parish, Louisiana

Page 2
Commission Meeting
March 27, 2002

OYSTER TASK FORCE

8. Report on Coastal Restoration and the Oyster Industry
9. Set August 2002 Meeting Date
10. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Jim Patton
Phil Bowman
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Ewell Smith
Division Chiefs
Marianne Burke

March 27, 2002

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: 

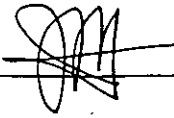
AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, April 4, 2002, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of March 7, 2002
3. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March
4. Public Comments - 2002-03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules & Regulations
5. Notice of Intent - Suspension of Collection of Portion of Alligator Tag Fee
6. Fishing Week Resolution
7. Notice of Intent - Prohibit Gill Nets, Trammel Nets, and Fish Seines in Cypress Lake & Black Bayou Reservoir Located in Bossier Parish, Louisiana
8. Oyster Task Force Report on Coastal Restoration and the Oyster Industry
9. Set August 2002 Meeting Date
10. Public Comments
11. Adjournment

March 26, 2002

APPROVED: _____

A handwritten signature, possibly "SM", is written over a horizontal line.

MINERALS COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Minerals Committee of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will meet on Thursday, April 4, 2002, in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA. The meeting, scheduled to begin at 9:15 AM, will be to discuss the method and procedure used to set current values charged for fill sand and fill material royalties.

March 26, 2002

APPROVED: _____

MINERALS COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Minerals Committee of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will meet on Thursday, April 4, 2002, in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA. The meeting, scheduled to begin at ^{9:15}~~9:00~~ AM, will be to discuss the method and procedure used to set current values, *changed for fill sand and fill material royalties.*

(Additional language added by Don Puckett.)

Hawkins, Susan

From: Tom Gattle [tomg@bayou.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2002 1:30 PM
To: hawkins_sc@wlf.state.la.us
Subject: FW: Minerals Committee

-----Original Message-----

From: Patton, James [mailto:Patton_JL@wlf.state.la.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2002 9:23 AM
To: Tom Gattle (E-mail)
Subject: Minerals Committee

Tom: Don P. says that he is going to ask for an AG opinion as to whether the new values could be established by commission action, or would require passage by the legislature. Either way, the committee should meet to discuss the method and procedure to be used to set current values.

C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Tom Gattle
Fax #: 318-559-1524
Subject: Revised Agenda
Date: March 27, 2002
Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

For your review as per our telephone conversation.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

225-765-2806
Fax: 225-765-0948

March 27, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: April Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, April 4, 2002, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of March 7, 2002

WINTON VIDRINE

3. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

4. Public Comments - 2002-03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules & Regulations
5. Notice of Intent - Suspension of Collection of Portion of Alligator Tag Fee
6. Fishing Week Resolution

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

7. Notice of Intent - Prohibit Gill Nets, Trammel Nets, and Fish Seines in Cypress Lake & Black Bayou Reservoir Located in Bossier Parish, Louisiana

Page 2
Commission Meeting
March 27, 2002

OYSTER TASK FORCE

8. Report on Coastal Restoration and the Oyster Industry
9. Set August 2002 Meeting Date
10. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Jim Patton
Phil Bowman
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Ewell Smith
Division Chiefs
Marianne Burke

P. 01

MAR-27-02 WED 12:23 PM

DATE	START	RECEIVER	TX TIME	PAGES	TYPE	NOTE	M#	DP
MAR-27	12:21 PM	83185591524	1' 34"	3	SEND	OK	001	

TOTAL : 1M 34S PAGES: 3

C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Tom Gattic

Fax #: 318-559-1524

Subject: Revised Agenda

Date: March 27, 2002

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

For your review as per our telephone conversation.

Notice of Intent - Prohibit
gill nets, trammel nets
and fish seines in
Cypress and Black
Bayou Reservoirs located
in Bossier Parish, LA.

added 3/27/2002 -
Bernie Fontenot

Hawkins, Susan

From: Burke, Marianne
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2002 1:55 PM
To: Hawkins, Susan
Cc: Courtney, Joel
Subject: Remove commission agenda item

Susan - I need to remove the Public Information item from the April commission meeting. Hopefully our Audio-visual office will be up and running again by the May commission meeting. Thank you.

Marianne M. Burke

Public Information Director

225/765-2917

*Bennie - added 3/26/2002
NOI - Cypress Lake + Black Bayou Reservoir
Netting Prohibition*

*Fishing Week Resolution - added 3/25/2002 -
Wayne Huston*

C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Tom Gattle

Fax #: 318-559-1524

Subject: Agenda

Date: March 22, 2002

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Please call me after you have had a chance to review the attached agenda. Thanks!

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

225-765-2806
Fax: 225-765-0948

, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: April Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, April 4, 2002, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of March 7, 2002

WINTON VIDRINE

3. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/March

PUBLIC INFORMATION SECTION

4. Public Information's Quarterly Report

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

5. Public Comments - 2002-03 Resident Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits and General Hunting Rules & Regulations

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

(None)

Page 2
Commission Meeting
, 2002

OYSTER TASK FORCE

6. Report on Coastal Restoration and the Oyster Industry
7. Set August 2002 Meeting Date
8. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Jim Patton
Phil Bowman
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Ewell Smith
Division Chiefs
Marianne Burke



To: John Roussel
From: Tracy Mitchell
Subject: Commission Agenda
Date: March 18, 2002

Dear John,

On behalf of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force, Mike Voisin (Chairman) is requesting that we be placed on the April 4, 2002 Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting agenda.

We would like to give our perspective on "Coastal Restoration and the Oyster Industry". It is for information only.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 504-563-5695.

Sincerely,


Tracy B. Mitchell

1600 Canal Street, Suite 210
New Orleans, LA 70112
1.800.222.4017

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
March 5, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - April 4, 2002

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Monday, March 18th any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, April 4th Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on April 4th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Tommy Prickett ✓
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

Public Commit - Seasons By Limits Hunting Regs.

Ratify Amended Game Breeder Rules

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
March 5, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - April 4, 2002

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Monday, March 18th any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, April 4th Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on April 4th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Tommy Prickett
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke ✓

*Please add Public Information's
Quarterly Report to
the agenda. Thank you.
Mike Burke
3/12/02*

Hawkins, Susan

From: Foote, Karen
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2002 12:53 PM
To: Roussel, John E |
Cc: Hawkins, Susan; Porch, Pat; Abbott, Janet
Subject: April Commission meeting

At this point, Marine Fisheries has no agenda items for the April meeting.

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
March 5, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr..
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - April 4, 2002

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Monday, March 18th any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, April 4th Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on April 4th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Tommy Prickett
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie ✓
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

~~Notice of Intent Alligator Regulation~~
None

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
March 5, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - April 4, 2002

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Monday, March 18th any agenda items your office may have for the **Thursday, April 4th** Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on April 4th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Tommy Prickett
Bennie Fontenot ✓
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

Dear Susan:
I have no items
from Duland fish for
the agenda. Thank you.
Bennie

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
March 5, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - April 4, 2002

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Monday, March 18th any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, April 4th Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on April 4th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine ✓
Tommy Prickett
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

Enf. Report!

[Signature]

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
March 5, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - April 4, 2002

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Monday, March 18th any agenda items your office may have for the **Thursday, April 4th** Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on April 4th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Tommy Prickett
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke